

**Friday**  
FEBRUARY 20, 2009

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A Chicago Tribune publication

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CTA bus riders:  
Beware of longer  
commutes **6**

Hate crimes  
in Chicago  
mapped **11**

The Oscars –  
statistically  
speaking **46**

metromix  
Just bead it,  
wing it this  
weekend **21**

# Conan's Spring Break

On his last night in New York, O'Brien ready to  
party in L.A., make 'Tonight' all his own **30-31**



# 2do

## To lose

If you're interested in losing weight and the chance to win \$250,000, "The Biggest Loser" is holding open casting calls for individuals and teams of two from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at NBC Tower (454 N. Columbus Drive).

## To marvel

Watch Eamon Daly of **things** [mybeardcanlift.com](http://mybeardcanlift.com) hoist 15 pounds with his facial hair for a local charity Friday at the Windy City Rollers roller derby at UIC Pavilion (525 S. Racine Ave.). Tickets are \$20-\$40 for the derby, and doors open at 6 p.m.

## To watch

See the World's Toughest Rodeo at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the United Center (1901 W. Madison St.) followed by a country concert with Tracy Lawrence and Whiskey Falls. The first 500 people in attendance get a free cowboy hat. \$20-\$40.

## To view

Celebrate Black History Month with a free opening reception for eight African-American artists from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Maison Rouge gallery (2828 N. Clark St.). The event includes wine and music by Guitars of Fire.



» Daly and his feats of facial hair strength

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Text us a funny caption for the photo and we'll print the best in Monday's RedEye. To give it a shot, text the word "caption" followed by your brief caption and your name to **47383**. Good luck!

**txtable**



**Thursday's winner:** "I can see through your clothes with these \$2,000 Louis Vuitton glasses." —JABARI HOWARD



Anast



Lachey

## Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send us your picture along with the celeb who shares your style to [dlhernandez@tribune.com](mailto:dlhernandez@tribune.com). For Friday, we have Jaime Anist. Think he's a ringer for Nick Lachey? Text "Jaime" and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. Dead on

2. Way off



**27 23**

### TODAY'S FORECAST

Get ready for snow later



SAT.

**29**  
15

Lots more snow



SUN.

**21**  
8

Some sun, but cold



MON.

**28**  
21

Sunny!



TUE.

**40**  
35

Hooray! A thaw!

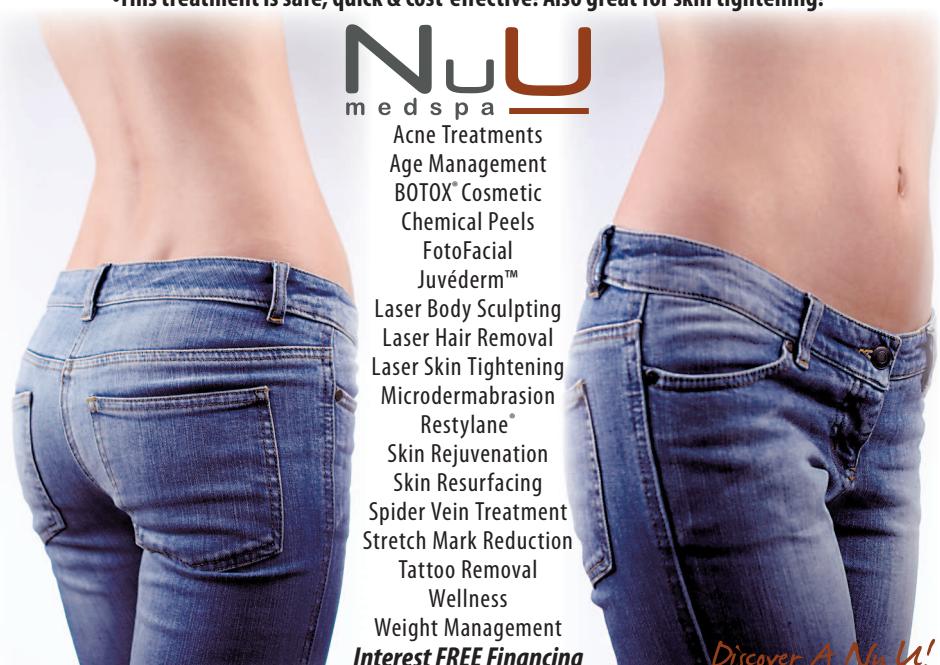
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# STIMULATE THIS

## Numbers show economy still in a dire state

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON** The number of laid-off workers receiving unemployment benefits has jumped to an all-time high near 5 million while new jobless claims remain well above 600,000. Both figures were worse than expected, and new projections from the Federal Reserve show unemployment rising for the rest of this year.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that the number of people receiving regular unemployment benefits rose 170,000 to 4.99 million for the week ending Feb. 7, marking the fourth straight week those receiving benefits have been at a record level on data going back to 1967.

The continuing claims figure underscored the difficulty people are having in this recession finding another job once they are laid off.

An additional 1.5 million people are receiving benefits under an extended unemployment compensation program approved by Congress last year, bringing the total number of people receiving unemployment benefits to 6.54 million for the week ending Feb. 7.

"The labor market is in disarray," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's **economy.com**. It's possible that job losses for all of February could total between 700,000 and 750,000 based on what weekly claims have done so far this month, he added.

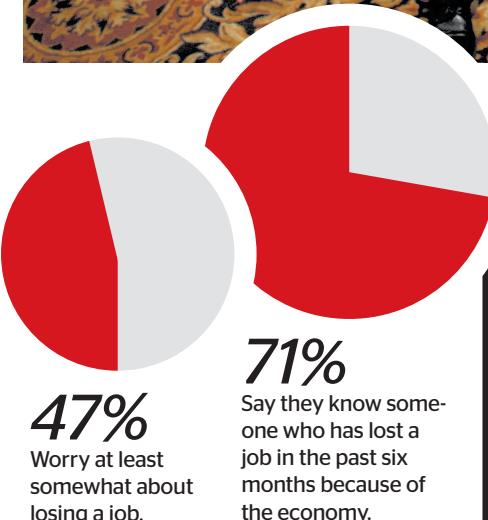
Employers slashed a net total of 598,000 jobs in January, the most since 1974.

In other economic news, wholesale inflation surged unexpectedly in January, according to the Labor Department. Wholesale prices jumped 0.8 percent last month, the biggest gain since July and well above the 0.2 percent increase that economists expected.

The acceleration was led by a 3.7 percent surge in energy prices with gasoline prices jumping 15 percent, the biggest gain in 14 months.



Job seekers wait in line Thursday at a job fair in Melville, N.Y. **GETTY IMAGES**



### CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

As the economy continues to struggle, the public is growing increasingly concerned about losing jobs, not having enough money to pay the bills and seeing their retirement accounts shrink, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll.

Nearly half of those surveyed said they worry about becoming unemployed—almost double the percentage at this time last year.

The poll released Wednesday also found public support dipped slightly in the past month for President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package.

## 9-year-old boy pleads guilty in homicide

**Associated Press**

**ST. JOHNS, Ariz.** A 9-year-old boy accused of methodically shooting his father and his father's roommate to death last fall pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of negligent homicide, settling the case that shocked the nation.

Under a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty in the death of the roommate and two charges of premeditated murder for both deaths were dropped. Police said the boy used a .22-caliber

rifle to shoot the men as they returned home from work Nov. 5.

The boy's plea spares the rural community of about 4,000 from what would have been an emotional trial and prevents the boy from serving time in the state juvenile corrections system or being tried as an adult.

The boy has not yet been sentenced. He could be sent to the county juvenile system, which would keep him close to his relatives.

The boy is currently free from custody on furlough. He is due back in court for a pre-sentencing hearing on March 5.

The boy was 8 when he was accused of shooting his 29-year-old father, Vincent Romero, and 39-year-old Timothy Romans, who rented a room from Romero.

The boy's mother objected to the plea deal, but Superior Court Judge Michael Roca accepted it.

## NINE LINES

A CATTY TAKE ON THE WEEK'S NEWS

### 1 Caution!

Shark attacks were down worldwide last year, scientists report. Apparently they're being cautious about the nuts they eat too.

### 2 Worth a shot

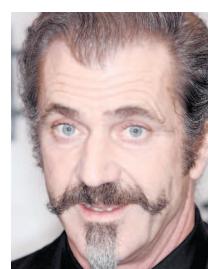
President Obama's stimulus bill is officially in action. But if it fails to boost the economy's performance, the government is prepared to turn to Alex Rodriguez's cousin.

### 3 Last gasp

And if that fails to stimulate us, Plan C is to distribute photos of Megan Fox.

### 4 Role with it

His movie prospects looking grim, Mel Gibson readies his audition to be Colonel Sanders. Or Captain Morgan. Or Metromix's The Great Burgerelli.



### 5 Happy timing

Researchers in Amsterdam say they've discovered a drug that could erase bad memories. Fortunately, the news arrives ahead of the release of Britney Spears' next video.

### 6 On the Sly

Sylvester Stallone is set to star in a movie called "The Expendables," which, coincidentally, also was the working title for "Rocky Balboa" and "Rambo."

### 7 Hog wild

A Texas lawmaker wants to allow locals to shoot rampaging pigs from helicopters. Texans would, of course, first be trained to spot the difference between a wild pig and one of their own.

### 8 13th night

Quick fix for Sunday's Oscars: Instead of striking up the orchestra to cut off winners' speeches, let Jason handle it.

### 9 High there

A man in Utah wondering why his fuel gauge always read half-full eventually found 35 pounds of weed in the gas tank. Apparently he was tipped off when he saw Michael Phelps trying to light his exhaust pipe.

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## Friends forever? With limitations

The ever-expanding MySpace and Facebook family is familiar with status updates, so check this one out:

"Kyra ... advises you to do a social networking scrub."

Separate your "friends" from your "frenemies" by grouping.

Put your privacy settings on Shawshank levels. And for the love of God, take down that photo of you doing the Beyonce bounce at Funky Buddha Lounge.

Your embarrassment could be immortalized, as demonstrated by a Facebook flap this week.

On Sunday, the Consumerist blog revealed that Facebook quietly deleted part of a user agreement clause that stated user content automatically expires once you close your account.

To borrow the slightly alarmist headline from Consumerist: "Facebook New Terms of Service: We Can Do Anything We Want with Your Content. Forever."

Luckily, by Wednesday, Facebook did an about-face, although its leadership claimed they never intended for the clause to be interpreted as an eternal hold on user information. The site reverted to its old clause and even invited users to submit suggestions for a "Bill of Rights and Responsibilities."

Nice gesture, but my Facebook-fueled fear remains.

It inspired me to start spring cleaning my social networks, and I invite you to do the same:

### Get clique-ish

'Memba in grade school when you ranked your friends as first, second and third best? It was stupid, right? Wrong. Create at least a three-tiered hierarchy of friends on MySpace and Facebook, as both sites allow categorization. For example, designate "family" to encompass the closest of friends and relatives. "Classmates" could consist of school chums you like, but don't necessarily talk to very often. Group your co-workers, too, especially the ones you see only at annual meetings.

### Ready, set, privacy!

Now that you've grouped all your peeps by level of intimacy, use your social networking site's privacy settings to determine what they can see and do on your page. Wherever possible, set definite limits for your wall, your updates, and don't forget photo albums, your most precious of possessions. If you've posted a photo and can't make up your mind who should be able to see it, delete it. Put that photo where it belongs: in a frame.

Hopefully, these revelations won't result in hurt feelings among online buds who no longer can see my sexy vampire costume from Halloween '08. Same goes for my travails with my sister in Sin City.

It goes both ways, so I won't be distressed if I can no longer check out your 2nd-grade photos or the passive aggressive updates of the guy who sat three rows behind me in freshman-year Econ.

Heck, I plan on doing even more social scrubbing this weekend. Don't meet me there, beat me there.



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# chicago



Glenne Tietzer, 14, shops for Stevenson High School's gay dance. **STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE**

## School plans first gay dance

**Chicago Tribune**

Step into Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire on Friday night and you'll see something new that students and organizers hope becomes a tradition: A dance for gay students.

"This is the first time they've gotten to actually plan a dance explicitly for their interests. That seems like a small thing, and it's not," said teacher Bill Fritz.

Stevenson's dance will be the most public event for a Gay Straight Alliance chapter whose formation five years ago at the school sparked some controversy. Club posters were torn from bulletin boards, so students laminated them and stapled them back up. Members heard whispered gay slurs, so they distributed lollipops that said "discrimination sucks." They set up booths at school fairs and advertised the club as a welcoming place where teens could be themselves. A dance seemed the next logical step.

They wanted a splashy affair open to all students and neighboring schools, said senior Aliya de Grazia, the club's co-president.

"We're working on a disco ball and disco lights," de Grazia, 17, said.

"Full kitsch. People love kitsch," quipped co-president David Norman, 17.

Organizers hope to make the dance a tradition, building on inroads made in other area schools.

The topic is controversial. Some contend schools should stay neutral on issues of homosexuality and that schools can shield students from discrimination without sponsoring clubs, let alone dances, for gay and lesbian students.

Federal law prevents public schools from prohibiting student organizations based on their viewpoint.

Stevenson High School Principal Janet Gonzalez said the dance will be governed by standard school rules.

"High school is still high school, so it has to be appropriate," Gonzalez said.



The CTA pulled versions of its articulated buses Thursday after a structural defect was found. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE**

## ONE LONG HEADACHE

**Commuters told to adjust rush-hour travel after 200 buses removed**

**Chicago Tribune**

CTA bus customers are advised to avoid rush-hour travel starting Friday, ride trains instead or be prepared to wait longer for crowded buses to arrive as the result of safety problems sidelining nearly 200 articulated buses that are the workhorses of the fleet.

The transit agency on Thursday removed from service the 60-foot-long buses, which are 50 percent longer than the standard-size bus and carry more people, as a precaution after finding serious cracks in the chassis of one vehicle, officials said.

It was not known when the buses, which face inspections and possible repairs, will be returned to the streets.

Taking out of service all North American Bus Industries Inc. (NABI) buses, which represent 6 percent of the CTA's bus fleet, is expected to affect commuters across the system, particularly from 7 to 8 a.m. and from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays, officials said.

The CTA is encouraging commuters to adjust their travel schedules or switch to trains, if possible. More frequent rail service has been added on the Red, Blue, Pink, Green and Brown Lines, officials said.

### CRUNCHING NUMBERS

The articulated buses can carry up to about 125 passengers—61 people seated and 64 standing.

The capacity of the CTA's 40-foot buses range from 81 to 84 passengers, officials said. The CTA will need to use three 40-foot buses for every two articulated buses removed from service.

Bus riders also can check the whereabouts of buses by using the CTA Bus Tracker at [ctabustracker.com](http://ctabustracker.com).

The NABI articulated buses were in service primarily on high-ridership routes, but some of the standard-size 40-foot buses are being reassigned from other routes while the NABI fleet is parked, resulting in longer intervals between buses on numerous routes, officials said.

The CTA has known about potential structural fatigue along the frame of the NABI buses, based on an accelerated durability test of one prototype vehicle some years ago. But a CTA bus pulling into a garage recently failed, CTA spokeswoman Noelle Gaffney said.

CTA Acting President Dorval Carter Jr. decided to remove the NABI buses from service until an independent expert evaluates the problem and repairs are made, Gaffney said.

The accordion-style buses entered service starting in 2003.

The CTA determined in 2005 that design flaws are to blame for the defects, which included cracks found around axles and the joint connecting the articulated midsection of the buses.

The CTA filed a lawsuit against NABI after the financially strapped bus manufacturer failed to make sufficient improvements under the warranty, transit officials said. The CTA stopped making payments on the \$102 million contract about four years ago.

NABI has counter-sued the CTA for breach of contract for stopping payment on the bus purchases. Both suits are pending in Cook County Circuit Court.

Slightly fewer than 200 buses still were in service when the CTA pulled the plug on them Thursday.

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# Group condemns U. of C. practices

Executives at the University of Chicago Medical Center had hoped their initiative to divert some patients from its emergency room would spark a healthy national debate.

Now they've got one.

The nation's largest group of emergency physicians Thursday condemned U. of C.'s plans, saying it comes "dangerously close" to violating federal law and calling for a congressional investigation. U. of C.'s initiative is aimed at clearing its ER of patients with non-urgent injuries and illnesses by redirecting them to community hospitals and clinics.

The American College of Emergency Physicians cited the Tribune's coverage last week of the hospital's Urban Health Initiative and of

12-year-old Dontae Adams, who was attacked by a pit bull and sent to another hospital for surgery.

The U. of C. maintains its Urban Health Initiative is about getting patients the right treatment at the appropriate location and that the plan does not violate the law.

But in an unusual attack, the emergency physicians' organization said the hospital is failing in its obligation to treat emergency patients. The group also expressed "grave" concerns that U. of C.'s policy is "dangerously close to patient dumping," a practice made illegal by the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act. The group also is concerned other medical centers across the country could adopt similar strate-

gies to cope with long waits for emergency treatment and rising health costs amid the deepening recession, which is what the U. of C. said were the primary drivers of its initiative.

"Like nearly every hospital in the country, [University of Chicago] faces challenges relating to appropriate use of our limited emergency department resources and are seeking creative solutions," the medical center said in a statement.

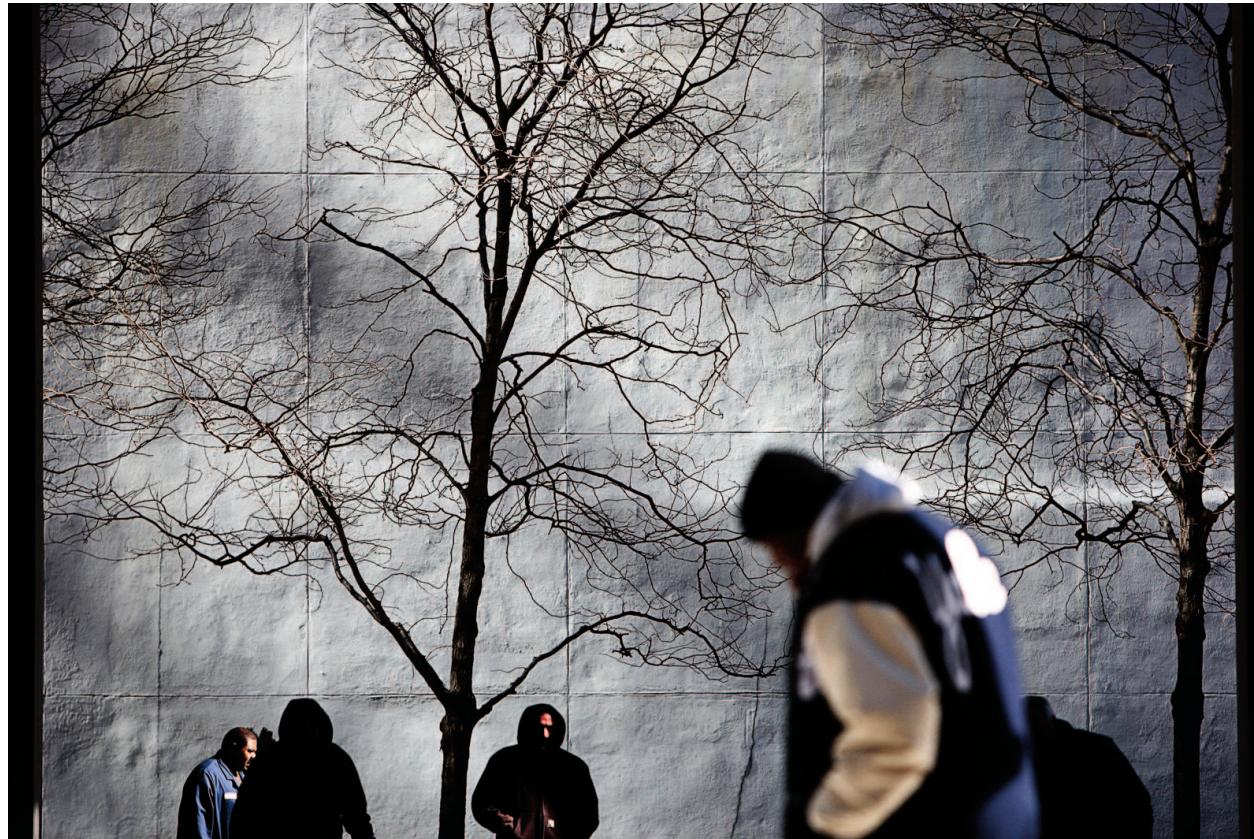
The U. of C. also said the group's criticism related to Adams' case is "unfounded."

"We regret ACEP's distortion of this case, and its mischaracterization of our efforts to responsibly address a nationwide crisis in health care," the U. of C. said in a statement.

## Oh, snow!

This mostly snowless scene Thursday on the plaza behind the Dirksen Federal Building may change drastically if the forecast for Friday night and Saturday holds true. Forecasters are calling for 6 to 8 inches of snow across parts of Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana.

NANCY STONE/ TRIBUNE



## Support waning for Burris

Even before this week's controversy, U.S. Sen. Roland Burris' prospects for election next year were dim—tainted by an appointment from a disgraced and now ousted governor and a record of three consecutive losses in statewide campaigns.

But as investigations get under way in Washington and Springfield to examine his veracity in dealing with state lawmakers and the public, Burris' aggressive efforts to cap a 30-year career with a Senate stint could end in a tarnished legacy

long before any 2010 ballots are printed.

Burris spent the day out of public sight Thursday after abandoning a planned trip to Rockford and vowing to ignore further questions from reporters. The longtime politician—who first blamed calls for investigation and resignation on Republicans playing partisan politics—now finds himself further isolated by Democrats.

A number of Illinois Democrats have moved quickly from neutrality or support of Burris to

calling for his resignation. State Comptroller Dan Hynes, a fellow Chicago Democrat, joined the resignation rolls Thursday. Rep. Bill Foster issued a statement Thursday calling the revelation of Burris' fundraising discussions with Rod Blagojevich's brother "very disappointing."

Legislative Republicans called on Democrats to pass legislation for a special election to force Burris from office—a move that could raise constitutional questions.

Gov. Patrick Quinn and Mayor Daley are maintaining a wait-and-see approach about Burris' immediate future.

## Bomb threat at DePaul

The library on DePaul University's Lincoln Park campus was evacuated Thursday morning following a bomb threat, university officials said. The university said the threat only affected the John T. Richardson Library, 2350 N. Kenmore Ave., said Denise Mattson, a DePaul spokeswoman. The library was evacuated about 11:30 a.m. and reopened at 2:30 p.m., she said. Mattson said the university notified students via its public address systems. An e-mail also was sent to faculty, staff and student employees, she said.

## Teen found slain in vacant lot ID'd

An 18-year-old man found fatally shot in a vacant lot on the South Side Wednesday was identified Thursday. Police responded to a call of shots fired in the 1500 block of West 58th Street about 1:15 p.m., said police spokeswoman Officer JoAnn Taylor. The officers found emergency medical technicians trying to save Aaron Williams' life, authorities said. Williams, of the 1300 block of West 56th Street, was shot in the head and died on the scene.

## Homeless man fights for ballot spot

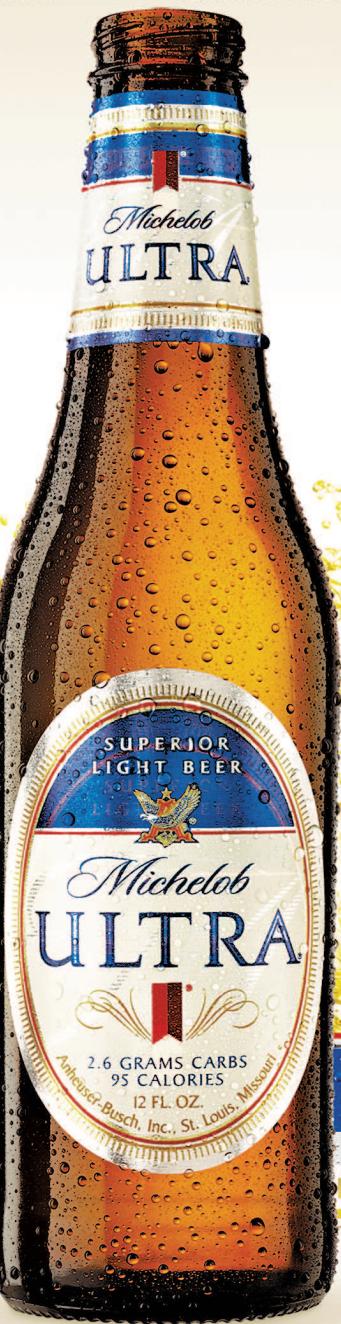
A man barred from running for elective office because he's homeless has filed an appeal of the decision to keep him off the ballot in Oak Park. On Thursday, Daniel Fore filed both a petition seeking a judicial review of the decision and an emergency motion for an expedited hearing. Fore's attorneys said nothing in the law bars homeless people from ballot access just because they're homeless.

## Santa Claus is coming to court

A woman who claims a drunken man in a Santa suit stumbled and fell on top of her, knocking her face-first into the sidewalk, is taking the man to court. Antoinette Basso filed suit Thursday against Daniel Aulwes, claiming negligence and negligent battery for the Dec. 7, 2008, incident outside a restaurant in the 1000 block of West Monroe Street. She is seeking more than \$50,000 in damages.

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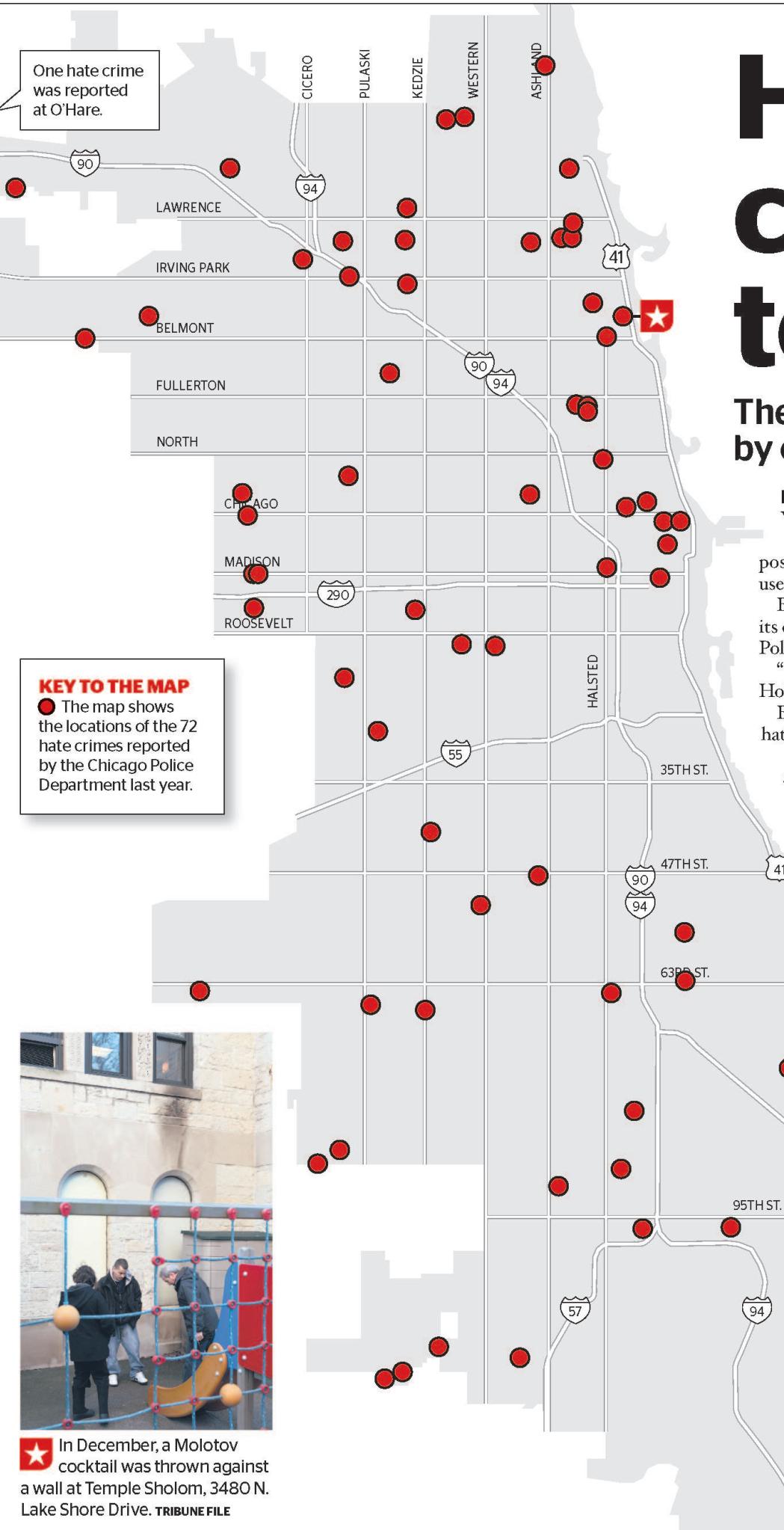


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# Hate crime cases tough to classify

**The law is clear, but how it is interpreted by officials can vary from case to case**

**By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE**

What constitutes a hate crime?

Consider this: In three separate incidents last year, racial epithets were scrawled on posters in three different buildings on DePaul's Lincoln Park campus. The "n-word" was used in two of the cases, DePaul spokesman John Holden said.

But DePaul does not consider these acts hate crimes, Holden said. DePaul doesn't have its own police department, like most universities, so it constantly works with the Chicago Police Department, Holden said.

"They were not crimes per se. ... There was really no criminal damage to property," Holden said. "They are not being classified as hate crimes by us."

But these three incidents are being counted as hate crimes by the city, which tallied 72 hate crimes in Chicago last year based on police data. There were 72 hate crimes in 2007.

In Chicago, a hate crime is defined as a crime—including battery, assault, criminal damage to property, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct or harassment by telephone—in which a specific hate motive has been established.

In a hate crime, which is a felony, the motive stems from the intended victim's actual or perceived ancestry, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability (including HIV status) or national origin.

When investigating a reported crime, the Chicago police identify if the victim has been the target of a possible hate crime. If this is the case, the law requires the police to forward the victim's known information to the city's Commission on Human Relations, which tracks reported hate crimes in the city and provides support for victims.

But, as the DePaul vandalism cases illustrate, interpretations vary on what constitutes a hate crime.

Ultimately, Chicago police make the initial call, said Norman White of the Commission on Human Relations. If the police report an incident as a hate crime, the commission then offers resources to the victims and follows the case through the court system.

White said most of the reported hate crimes in Chicago tend to be motivated by race and sexual orientation.

In 2008, 44 percent of the hate crimes reported by Chicago police were race-related, 25 percent were tied to sexual orientation, 18 percent were linked to religion and 12 percent to national origin.

But in recent months, there's been a spate of religion-related hate crimes possibly linked to the tension in the Middle East.

Four synagogues and Jewish schools in Chicago and Lincolnwood were vandalized last month. At the end of December, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at Temple Sholom in Lakeview. No one was injured.

"[Hate crime] was the first conclusion I personally came to," temple president Roger Rudich said. "We had never had any threats or problems so I have to think it's related" to the fighting in Gaza. **TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM**



### America ready to listen

**1** In Jakarta, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday relentlessly hammered home the Obama administration's message that America is under new management and ready to listen and engage the world.

### Men acquitted

**2** A jury in Moscow voted unanimously Thursday to acquit three men in the brazen killing of journalist Anna Politkovskaya in 2006, dimming hopes for justice in a case that has mocked Russia's claims to be a modern democratic nation.

### Banking secrecy intact

**3** Switzerland on Thursday desperately sought to reassure its citizens and international banking clients that it would safeguard a treasured tradition of confidential accounts after taking the unprecedented step of revealing 250 tax cheats to U.S. authorities.

### Arson arrest

**4** Authorities say they have made an arrest in the arsons that have plagued Coatesville, Pa. The city has reported 18 arsons this year and 26 last year.

### OCD help

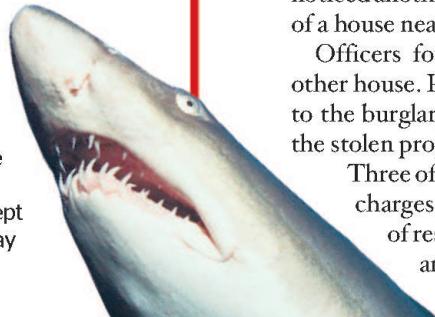
**5** The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved Medtronic's Reclaim device as the first implant to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder, which causes uncontrollable worries, such as fear of germs or dirt.

### Pilot training defended

**6** The operator of Continental Connection Flight 3407 that crashed in Clarence, N.Y., last week defended both its training programs and the pilot after investigators said they would examine whether the crew overreacted when an automatic safety system sensed the plane was slowing down dangerously.

### THE DIGIT

**59** The economy isn't all bad. Shark attacks worldwide dropped in 2008, after 71 were reported in 2007. A leading shark expert said the change might have happened because the ailing economy kept cash-strapped vacationers away from beaches.



# Obama travels to Canada

**7** OTTAWA Outside U.S. borders for the first time as president, Barack Obama launched a brisk, closely watched visit Thursday with leaders of Canada, an essential economic ally.

The president touched down late morning in Ottawa, heading into a day of meetings on touchy topics: the crashing economy, trade fears and the troubling state of Afghanistan.

Under gray skies, a cheering crowd of more than 1,000 people greeted Obama as his motorcade pulled up to Parliament Hill. One individual carried a sign that

### Did you know?

Canada and the U.S. have the largest trading relationship between any two countries in the world.

read "Yes we CANada!"

Obama shook hands with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and waved to the crowd. A huge cheer erupted.

Obama comes bearing a pro-trade message to assuage Canadian concerns over protectionism; a promise of a new strategy in Afghanistan as Canada moves

to pull out all its troops there; and talk of clean-energy cooperation as controversy hangs over Canada's oil-rich sands.

It is Obama's first chance since taking office to command an audience abroad, let alone get an impression of the conservative leader Harper. The two had not met previously.

As Obama grapples with an economy in free fall, he has kept his focus at home. As if to underscore that urgent domestic tone, he did not stay the night or even stick around for dinner in Canada. He was in Ottawa for seven hours.



## Candy helps cops nab teenagers

**8** PALM BAY, Fla. Police say a trail of candy wrappers helped them find five Florida teens suspected of breaking in to a nearby home.

Officers responded to a burglary report Tuesday in Palm Bay. An officer then followed a trail of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups packages in the back yard. The officer noticed another wrapper on the front porch of a house near the victim's home.

Officers found several juveniles at the other house. Police say the teens confessed to the burglary and informed officers that the stolen property was in the attic.

Three of the teens face armed burglary charges and two others face charges of resisting arrest without violence and tampering with evidence.



## Lucky to be alive

**9** MORELAND, Ga. Robert Skinner lost six cars, a tractor and his shop to severe storms Wednesday night that swept across the area southwest of Atlanta. One person was killed and at least 16 were injured when the fierce thunderstorms swept across Georgia and Alabama with tornadoes and hail. **APPHOTO**

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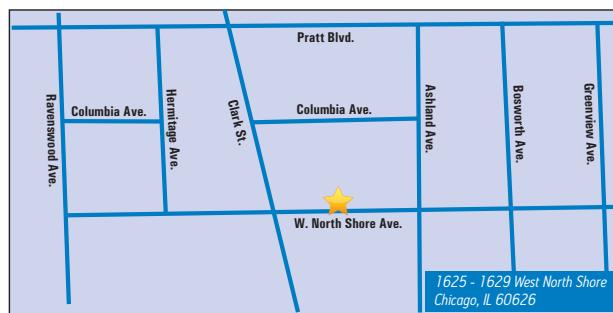


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# sports

# AYE OF THE TIGER



## Woods says yes, he is ready to return to competitive golf next week

**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES** Eight months after winning the U.S. Open on one good leg, a healthy Tiger Woods is returning to golf.

Woods said on his Web site Thursday that he will defend his title next week in the Accenture Match Play Championship.

"I'm now ready to play again," Woods said.

The tourney in Tucson, Ariz., begins Wednesday.

"He was ready to go weeks ago," Stuart Appleby said at Riviera.

The timing for Woods to end his 253-day break from competition could not be better for the PGA Tour, which has seen TV ratings plunge after the world's No. 1 player had to miss the second half of the season.

"We are delighted that Tiger is returning to competition and look forward to watching him compete next week," commissioner Tim Finchem said.

The last shot Woods hit for real was a short par putt on the 91st hole of the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, where he defeated Rocco Mediate to capture his 14th major, which Woods described as "probably the best ever" under the circumstances.

He had surgery after the Masters last year to repair cartilage damage in his left knee, and suffered a double stress fracture in his left leg while preparing for his return.

He limped badly over the final few days of the U.S. Open, later saying the swelling was so bad at night that he couldn't see his knee cap.

He began hitting short irons toward the end of December, and friends such as Mark O'Meara and John Cook said he had been playing plenty of golf over the last few weeks at his home course in Florida.

Woods will be under even greater scrutiny when he returns at Match Play. The eight-month break is his longest ever, and there are questions of rust and how much he has modified his swing after the knee surgery.

Even so, swing coach Hank Haney said last month that Woods would not return until he thought he could win.

"He's not looking to just participate," Haney said last month.

Woods is a three-time winner of the Accenture, but no tournament is more unpredictable. Woods once lost in the first round to unheralded Peter O'Malley of Australia.

His return could last only one day. He could also advance to the weekend, where Woods might face as many as 36 holes a day.

"I didn't think he would return at Match Play because the media would be all over him if he lost in the first round," Appleby said.

Kenny Perry believes expectations will be minimal.

"I think it's awesome," Perry said. "The

economy is down. We need something to boost us up. And there's going to be a gazillion reporters there, so it will be fun to be around."

He also figures that Woods will do his part.

"I think he'll be ready to rock," Perry said. "He must be spittin' nails right now. I think he'll be better than ever. He'll probably kick our butts like crazy."

Woods was playing some of the best golf of his career when he had his surgery. He had won nine of his last 12 tournaments and did not finish worse than fifth during that stretch.

**txtable**

### CANINE HOT LINE

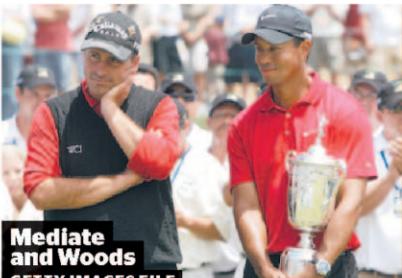
Will Tiger's return to golf get you watching next weekend? Send Whizzer your thoughts via e-mail to [redeyesports@tribune.com](mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com), or just text "whiz" and your comment followed by your name, age and neighborhood to 47383.



**Woods falls to his knees after missing his birdie putt during the U.S. Open.**  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

## TIGER TIME

Tiger hasn't golfed since last June, but that doesn't mean he hasn't been making headlines. Here's what he's been up to. **REDEYE**



**Mediate and Woods**  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

**June 16**  
Woods wins a dramatic U.S. Open in sudden death against Rocco Mediate.

**June 18**  
Woods announces he must undergo reconstructive surgery on his left knee. He also announces he was dealing with a double stress fracture of his left tibia during his U.S. Open win.

**June 24**  
Woods has successful knee surgery in Park City, Utah. "It was important to me to have the surgery as soon as possible so that I could begin the rehabilitation process," he says.

**Aug. 27**  
In New York City, Woods helps launch the video game Tiger Woods PGA Tour 09. He ends the day with an appearance on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." Hilarity ensues.

**Sept. 2**  
Woods tells the world he is going to become a father for a second time.

**Oct. 9**  
Woods unveils the lineup for his 4th Annual Tiger Woods Learning Center Block Party, and it features singer Seal as a headliner.



GETTY IMAGES FILE



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**Nov. 24**

GM and Woods announce they will end their endorsement deal effective Dec. 31.

**Dec. 19**

Woods hosts the Chevron World Challenge in Thousand Oaks, Calif. He won the tourney in 2007.

**Jan. 12**

Woods announces he's been practicing at Isleworth Country Club near his home in Orlando. "So far, my knee has held up well, but I don't know when I'll be able to return to competition," he says on his Web site.

**Jan. 18**

During inauguration festivities, Woods speaks at We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration. It is one of his first forays into politics.

**Feb. 8**

Woods and wife Elin have their second child, a boy named Charlie Axel Woods.

**Tuesday**

Woods announces that reunited rockers No Doubt will headline Tiger Jam XII at the Madalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas. Tiger Jam is a fundraiser for the Tiger Woods Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping young people meet their full potential.

# Bulls own boomerang trade move



## sacked again

**BAG BOY**  
redeyesports  
@tribune.com

Oh, yes, here we go. Finally something Chicago teams are great at.

The Bulls sent Andres Nocioni, Cedric Simmons, Michael Ruffin and Drew Gooden to Sacramento for Brad Miller and John Salmons.

First, some disclosure. I haven't watched an NBA game in about

three years, so I really have no idea what I'm talking about.

The key here is Brad Miller. I say this because he used to play for the Bulls.

And this is what Chicago teams do so well. We have a guy. He's pretty good. Then, through some combination of stupidity, laziness or ineptitude, we either trade the guy or, worse, just let him go right before his prime, and then bring him back.

Brad Miller. Good young center on the Bulls from 2000-02 (the Elton Brand era? Gross). He gets away, actually makes the All-Star team twice, and now we bring him back. In Chicago, this is called the Greg Maddux move, and I think we all know how that one ended. It's such a great move, the Bulls did it again Thursday with former-Bull-now-new-Bull Tim Thomas. They got him in exchange for never-used Larry Hughes.

As for the rest of the Miller trade, we got John Salmons. I have never heard of this guy, and he's good. Like 18 points-a-game good. Like, watch out Kirk Hinrich and Ben Gordon.

As far as the players we gave up? These guys won't be missed. Nocioni. Fire and hustle. Yeah, that might be missed. Ruffin, I didn't realize he was still on the team. Gooden. Hmm, I keep thinking this is the Drew Gooden from Kansas, but he just isn't.

In the end, I can assure you we will be no better off than we are now. I've never seen a league where more teams are anxious to get mediocre players because their contracts are expiring.

Hallelujah! We got an average guy who comes off the books next year!

I'm overwhelmed with excitement.

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# Noob

Like the Bulls, we've got a new face on the panel for Facebook Fives. You can sign up just like Tory Johnson did at the address above.

TOPIC	JIMMY GREENFIELD <a href="mailto:jgreenfield@tribune.com">jgreenfield@tribune.com</a>	PHILLIP THOMPSON <a href="mailto:pithompson@tribune.com">pithompson@tribune.com</a>	SUPRIYA DOSHI <a href="mailto:sdoshi@tribune.com">sdoshi@tribune.com</a>	THAT GUY <a href="mailto:thatguy@tribune.com">thatguy@tribune.com</a>	TORY JOHNSON <a href="mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com">redeyesports@tribune.com</a>
1 Here's your chance to welcome the new Bulls players to Chicago. Go.	Hello, fellas. Hope you brought your expiring contracts with you.	Welcome! Those guys who you just passed on their way out are your coach and GM.	Welcome to the greatest snow on Earth.	Best spot for jersey chasers: Underground. I'll take your rejects.	The Bulls have new players? I stopped watching after that game they blew.
2 What do you know about John Salmons?	He enjoys long walks in the park, foreign films and swimming upstream.	I know sticking on the Bulls roster is going to be an upstream battle.	I'm guessing he used to be decent, but will lose all talent with the Bulls.	He looks EXACTLY like my dad.	Is he the guy who owns the fish store on 79th and Western?
3 Predict something Brad Miller does in his Bulls debut (perhaps tonight vs. Denver).	Talk back to Vinny Del Negro.	The ghost of Bill Wennington will finally be exorcised from the United Center.	Hmm. He plays basketball. And hopefully scores a few points.	Miller Time! Let's get wasted.	Wonder how he ended up back in Chicago.
4 How will a second Billy Joel-Elton John show affect Wrigley Field?	The ghosts of Gene Clines, Larry Biittner and Bill Bonham will beg for silence.	Drunken Wrigley fans will think they're at a piano bar.	It'll have to get ear plugs. Wrigley Field isn't used to that much thundering applause.	The Cubs will be just a little bitchier this year.	It will be exciting and full of life, until the very end of the show.
5 What would ESPN's Web site dedicated to Chicago be like?	No doubt being from ESPN it'll be a great place to read about the Red Sox and Yankees.	Can a Web site cry?	Chicago sports will finally make it to the front page of an ESPN site.	The Worldwide Leader in Disappointment.	Lots of sports news—on other teams and maybe half a page for the locals.

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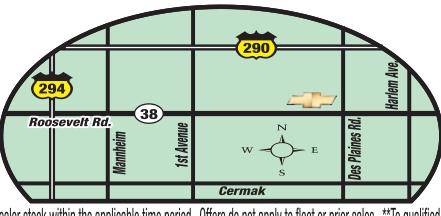
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Denver  
7:30 p.m. CSN

It just won't be the same at the United Center without Drew Gooden's beard.

COLLEGE  
BASKETBALL  
Illinois St.  
at Niagara  
6 p.m. ESPN2

This is a Bracketbuster matchup. Sounds painful.

NASCAR  
Sprint Cup  
qualifying  
5:30 p.m. SPEED

Let's see if Dale Earnhardt Jr. can stay out of everyone's way this time.

# BULLS BUSY

**GREENBURGH, N.Y.** The New York Knicks wanted a shooting guard, and Larry Hughes wanted out of Chicago.

They both got what they sought Thursday when the Knicks acquired Hughes in one of their two deals before the trade deadline, sending Tim Thomas to the Bulls along with seldom-used reserves Jerome James and Anthony Roberson.

Hughes was out of the Bulls' rotation and wanted out of Chicago entirely. He found a taker in the Knicks.

Hughes was acquired last year from Cleveland at the deadline but has been a non-factor in the Bulls' crowded backcourt. He hasn't played since Jan. 12 and is averaging 12 points in 30 games this season.

The deal sets up a second stint in Chicago for Thomas, who was dealt there by the Knicks before the 2005 season.

He only played three games with them before the Bulls sent him home that December and waived him in March.

However, Bulls coach Vinny Del Negro said he's played with and coached Thomas before and expects him to be a professional.

"I played with Tim a couple years ago [in Milwaukee] and I had him in Phoenix," Del Negro said.

"I didn't have problems and enjoyed playing with him. ... I expect him to be a professional and do his job."

Later in the day, the Bulls sent guard Thabo Sefolosha to the Oklahoma City Thunder for a first-round pick in June's draft.

PAXSON:  
I'M STAYING

Bulls General Manager John Paxson on Thursday put an end to a week of speculation about his future with the team, announcing he has no plans to resign.

"I'm the GM of the Bulls. I'm not resigning," Paxson said. "I'm here. I'm going to be here. That's the end of that."



New York Knicks forward Tim Thomas was traded to the Bulls in a deal reached Thursday. AP FILE

## HOMETOWN HITS



Alfonso Soriano went from leadoff man to middle-of-the-order hitter

to leadoff man without even playing a game. Manager Lou Piniella said Monday he would not "throw out the possibility" of moving Soriano down in the order. Piniella was asked about it again Thursday. "I never said that we're going to move him out of there," he said. So is it probable or improbable Soriano will be moved? "I would say it's improbable," Piniella replied.

» Milton Bradley likely will hit in the cleanup spot, Piniella said.

## THURSDAY'S RESULTS

- » Blackhawks 4, Florida 0
- » New Jersey 13, Storm 4
- » Oakland 77, W. Illinois 52
- » N. Dakota 76, SIU-Edwardsville 68

## BASEBALL

A-Rod's cousin  
found in Miami

The cousin who Alex Rodriguez claims injected him with a substance from the Dominican Republic has been found in Miami. Yuri Sucart and his wife, Carmen, live in a Miami home protected by bushes and a gate. Those at the home Thursday refused comment.

## CYCLING

Cavendish  
wins 2nd stage

Mark Cavendish won a stage for the second straight day, and two-time defending champion Levi Leipheimer kept his race lead Thursday after the fifth stage of the Tour of California. Lance Armstrong remains in fourth.

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# metromix



Harry Caray's Tavern  
FILE FOR METROMIX

# PARTY Mardi

Where to score Mardi Gras beads, gorge on wings, get erotic advice and toast Oscar this weekend

## weekend best bets

By Beth Geraci  
METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

### PICK OF THE WEEK

#### Will crawl for beads

It's more Clark Street than Bourbon Street, but beads and brews still are the name of the game at **Bead Quest 2009 Mardi Gras Crawl**. Nab necklaces at eight Wrigleyville bars during the inaugural hop, brought to you by the 12 Bars of Christmas pub crawl crew, for a chance to win a Cubs Opening Day rooftop party for four. Stops include Casey Moran's (3660 N. Clark St.), Harry Caray's Tavern (3551 N. Sheffield Ave.), Mullen's (3527 N. Clark St.) and more. Includes \$2.50 Bud Light beers at each spot, a raffle and karaoke back at Murphy's, where the crawl starts. 2 p.m. Saturday. \$12-\$15. Murphy's Bleachers, 3655 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-478-3378. Tickets: [shopfesta.com/beadcrawl](http://shopfesta.com/beadcrawl)

## PARTY PICKS

### Stepping out

Whether you're into lit clubs, dance clubs or the Queen of Clubs, **Stepping, Salsa & Spades** has something for you. The literary-minded dance party features signings by New York Times best-selling author L.A. Banks ("The Thirteenth"), NAACP Image Award nominee J.L. Woodson ("Superwoman's Child: Son of a Single Mother") and other writers, plus stepping and salsa dance lessons, oldies DJ sets and card games. Cash bar. 8 p.m. Friday. \$20. South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Drive. 888-854-8823.

### Just wing it

Prefer to wing it this weekend? Don't miss **Wing Fest**, the 10th annual feeding frenzy of chicken wings from more than 20 area bars and restaurants vying for the title of Best Wings in Chicago. In the ring: Mahoney's Pub & Grille, Goose Island Brewpub, Timothy O'Toole's Pub and other wing masters. Features live music by Cadillac Dave and the Chicago Redhots; WXRT's (93.1-FM) Lin Brehmer emcees. A raffle, giveaways and an optional open bar round things out. 1 p.m. Sunday. \$24-\$50. Proceeds benefit Chicago Neighbors United. Stephen M. Bailey Auditorium, 1340 W. Washington Blvd. 312-664-6656 ext 124. Tickets: [wingfest.net](http://wingfest.net)

### Star treatment

Watch stars shine—and fall—during **A Dark Night: Academy Awards Viewing Party at Tapas Valencia**. The Oscar party includes tapas, cocktails, wine and beer, and the chance to bid on jewelry, sports tickets, wine other silent auction items. Dress to the nines: The best-dressed guy and gal win prizes. Want to make your own movie? You also could win a camcorder in a raffle. 5:30 p.m. Sunday. \$50-\$55. Tapas Valencia, 1530 S. State St. 312-842-4444.

### Doggie style

Want to drum up dollars for dogs? **The Slingers' Ball** will get your tail wagging (and could result in some sloppy kisses from your pooch pals). The benefit for Great Lake's Mastiff Rescue includes an open bar, appetizers, a DJ and a silent auction of hotel packages, doggie day care services, sports memorabilia and more. 7 p.m. Friday. \$50. darkroom, 2210 W. Chicago Ave. 773-276-1411. Tickets: [gimr.org](http://gimr.org)



## BEST OF THE REST

### Tie one on

Role-playing takes on new meaning at **"Kama Sutra the Musical: Vegas Bound ... and Gagged,"** the X-rated musical comedy by Grammy Award-winner Terry Abrahamson that portrays a sexually repressed couple and the swami (above) who dishes up erotic advice to get them back in sync. Includes a raffle ticket for a Sybaris getaway. 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Through March 28. \$20 plus a two-drink minimum. Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-278-1830.

### The Rio deal

While Carnival is lighting up Rio, Rogers Park gets its own taste of **Brazilian Carnival** at the Morse Theatre. Local band Swing Brasileiro brings the scene to life with samba and other Brazilian rhythms while Passista's Samba Dance Group performs in elaborate costumes. Also features a special performance by martial arts-dance group Gingarte Capoeira. 9 p.m. Saturday. \$20-\$25. 1328 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.



darkroom  
FILE FOR METROMIX



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**WEDNESDAY**  
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Ground sirloin, Guatemalan insanity  
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**THURSDAY**  
ROCKIT ROCKSHRIMP CHILI  
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## Hurricane specials

Get in the Big Easy spirit  
with these Mardi Gras deals

### BLUE BAYOU

\$6 hurricane pints and bloody  
marys; 3734 N. Southport Ave.  
773-871-3300.

### FIZZ BAR & GRILL

\$5 hurricane cocktails and live  
New Orleans tunes; 3220 N.  
Lincoln Ave. 773-348-6088.

### STRETCH RUN

**SPORTING CLUB & GRILLE**  
\$5 hurricanes and \$5 bottles  
of Corona, Corona Light and  
Pacifico. 544 N. La Salle St. 312-  
644-4477.

### UNCLE FATTY'S RUM RESORT

\$6 Bacardi hurricanes, \$5  
Jager shots, the Spazmatics  
play 7 p.m.; 2833 N. Sheffield  
Ave. 773-477-3661.



Blue Bayou  
FILE FOR METROMIX

### More online!

Log on to [metromix.com](http://metromix.com) for the scoop on Mardi Gras parties all weekend long and Fat Tuesday bashes Feb. 24.

### BETTY'S BLUE STAR LOUNGE

10 p.m.: The Windy  
City Ultimate Gala.  
Catch performances  
from hip-hop artists J  
Slimm, DJ Spence and  
others. Bring demos to  
share with house music  
producer Joe Smooth  
and R&B producer L.A.  
\$10; 1600 W. Grand  
Ave. 312-315-9735.

### BLU 47

6 p.m.: Bronzeville  
Boogie. An after-work  
networking party  
features DJ Dolla  
Bill, drink specials  
and complimentary  
appetizers. No cover;  
4655 S. King Drive  
Second Floor. 773-536-  
6000.

### CIRCUIT NIGHT CLUB

9 p.m.: Ninth Annual  
Black Bra Party. Don  
dark lingerie for this  
ladies-only, lesbian  
dance party. \$5-\$10;  
3641 N. Halsted St. 773-  
325-2233.

### ENCLAVE

9 p.m.: Caribbean Mardi  
Gras. A fundraiser  
for residents of Haiti  
includes an open  
bar, appetizers and a  
performance by the  
Tamboula Ethnic Dance  
Company. \$40. Tickets:  
[chai-haiti.org](http://chai-haiti.org); 220 W.  
Chicago Ave. 312-654-  
0234.

### FIVE STAR BAR

Power, Corruption and  
Lies. DJ Brad Owen  
spins Brit pop, new  
wave, punk and indie 9  
p.m. No cover; 1424 W.  
Chicago Ave. 312-850-  
2555.

### GRAND RIVER

\$5 sandwiches, \$5  
martinis, \$3 Corona  
bottles, \$3 SoCo Lime  
shots; 3032 N. Lincoln  
Ave. 773-281-9900.

### THE LOFT

8:30 p.m.: Singles  
Speed Dating Party.  
Meet other singles  
(ages 22-32 or 33-43)  
for fast dates. Drink  
specials include \$4  
well cocktails and \$3  
domestic bottles. \$35.  
Registration required:  
[dateanddash.com](http://dateanddash.com); 15  
W. Division St. 800-957-  
3274.

### LUMEN

9 p.m.: DJ Tommie  
Sunshine Album  
Release Party. The  
turntablist spins tracks  
from his new dance  
compilation, "Relax,  
This Won't Hurt."

Includes a Svedka  
cocktail reception  
(9:10 p.m.). Derek  
Berry and Dicky C host.  
\$20. R.S.V.P. required  
for reception: [info@lumen-chicago.com](mailto:info@lumen-chicago.com);  
839 W. Fulton Market.  
312-733-2222.

### MAXBAR

Recession-Buster  
Friday. \$1 cocktails,  
\$2 beer bottles, \$500  
midnight cash drop;  
2247 N. Lincoln Ave.  
312-266-1900.

### PLYMOUTH RESTAURANT & BAR

8 p.m.: Pure Plymouth.  
Dance to DJ sets on  
the enclosed rooftop.  
\$4 lemon drop shots,  
\$4 St. Pauli pints, \$5  
cosmos or mai tais, \$5  
cheeseburgers; 327 S.  
Plymouth Ct. 312-362-  
1212.

### SHADOW BAR

9 p.m.: Vibe Fridays.  
DJs V Dubb and Sean  
Mac spin. Cover varies;  
811 W. Lake St. 312-491-  
9600.

### SOIREE

\$3 Corona bottles and  
cocktails, \$5 Maker's  
Mark shots, half-price  
appetizers; 2438 N.  
Lincoln Ave. 773-477-  
8880.

### SONOTHEQUE

9 p.m.: Braziliance  
Carnaval. Dress in  
costume and party  
with video of Rio's  
parades and themed  
drink specials. DJ Joe  
Bryl spins samba. The  
first 200 guests get a  
free Brazilian music CD.  
\$5; 1444 W. Chicago  
Ave. 312-226-7600.

### SPYBAR

10 p.m.: DJ Steve  
Angello. The Greek-  
Swedish mixmaster  
spins club beats. \$10-  
\$20; 646 N. Franklin St.  
312-337-2191.

### TRANSIT

DJs Frankie J, Juan  
the Predator and Green  
Eyes spin. \$15; 1431  
W. Lake St. 312-491-  
8600.

### THE UNDERGROUND

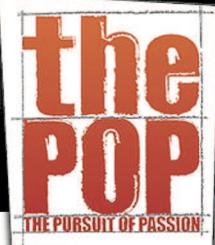
7 p.m.: Tickled Pink.  
Local celebs tend bar  
at a breast cancer  
fundraiser featuring  
a premium open  
bar, appetizers, late-  
night snacks and  
candy. Entertainment  
includes music by DJ  
Jem and DJ Andreas.  
\$95-\$120. Tickets:  
[tickledpinkchicago.com](http://tickledpinkchicago.com);  
56 W. Illinois St.  
312-294-8557.

### Y

7 p.m.: Ladies' Night  
at Y. Browse jewelry  
and handbags from  
local stores while  
snacking on appetizers  
and sipping vodka  
cocktails from 42  
Below. Includes  
manicures, massages,  
makeovers and  
waxing treatments.  
\$25-\$35. Tickets:  
[shequechicago.com](http://shequechicago.com);  
224 W. Ontario St. 773-  
510-5364.

# FEATURED EVENTS AT ENCLAVE

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21st



## CARNVALE

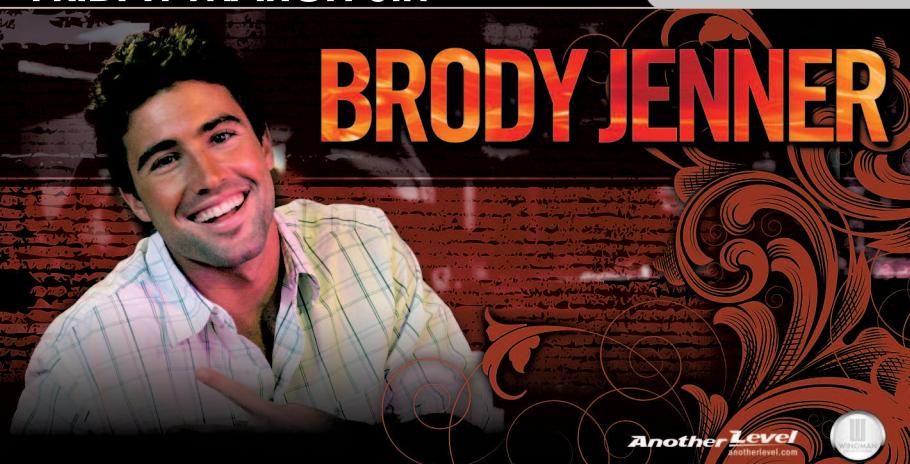
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FRIDAY MARCH 6th

## BRODY JENNER



FRIDAY MARCH 13th

## DJ AM RETURNS



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SATURDAY MARCH 7th



SATURDAY MARCH 21st



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1 Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 08-09.

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## Metromix's top shows

### ANNI ROSSI

Local singer-songwriter's upcoming "Rockwell" is stunning. Pick it up March 10. Deer Tick, Future Clouds and Radar headline.

10 p.m. Fri. \$10. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

### THIEVERY CORPORATION

New "Radio Retaliation" might start an uprising if it weren't so darn mellow. 9 p.m. Fri. \$41. Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave. 312-559-1212.

### WILLIAM ELLIOTT WHITMORE

Music this soulful should be against the law. Good thing it's not. With Shadow Government, Tim Wehrle. 9 p.m. Fri. \$12. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

### MARK OLSON AND GARY LOURIS

Jayhawks alums play from new "Ready for the Flood." With The Autumn Defense. 8:30 p.m. Fri. \$25. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 312-559-1212.



### Friday

#### BEARKAT, THE LOBLOLLY BOY

10 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

#### BREAKERS BROKEN, AMRITA, SETH BRADLEY, ENRIGHT HOTEL

10 p.m. \$7. Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

#### CYRUS CHESTNUT TRIO

8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

#### THE HUE, SPARE PARTS, FAMILY ORDER

10 p.m. \$10. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

#### I KONG KULT, FREDDIE T. AND THE PEOPLE, ORSO

9:30 p.m. \$8. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com

#### IS SHE WEIRD, IS SHE WHITE?, THE TEENAGE F.B.I.

10:30 p.m. \$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

#### JON LANGFORD'S SKULL ORCHARD, KASPAR HAUSER, THE JUDY GREEN

9:30 p.m. \$8-\$10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

### Saturday

#### 3 DOORS DOWN, SEETHER

7 p.m. \$45-\$49.50. The Venue, 777 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, Ind. 866-711-7463.

#### THE AUGUST, PO GIRL, JT NERO

9 p.m. \$10. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

#### BEGIN BY GATHERING SUPPLIES, BULLY PULPIT, SPOUSE

8:30 p.m. \$10. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

#### BOBBY BARE JR., DAVID VANDERVELDE

10:30 p.m. \$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

#### BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL: SWING BRASILEIRO, PASSISTA'S SAMBA DANCE GROUP

9 p.m. \$20-\$25. The Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.

#### CELLARS BLOOM, RUSTED HALO

9 p.m. \$7. Underground Lounge, 952 W. Newport Ave. 773-327-2739.

#### CHICAGO SAMBA CARNIVAL 2009: DJ NANDO BRASIL, SAMBA 1 DANCE GROUP

10 p.m. \$15. Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave. 773-252-6179.

#### THE COMMODES, THE POLKAHOLICS, THE LOCALS, ORGAN WOLF

7 p.m. \$12. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

#### DEAL'S GONE BAD, THE DYES, THE PINSTRIPES

10:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

#### DIRGE, ELI, LAZARUS A.D., THE DOOMSDAY CATALYST, TRIALS, BLOODSTREAM PARADE

5 p.m. \$8-\$10. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

#### HOST IN THE GRAVEYARD, A DANCE BETWEEN GIANTS

6:30 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

#### GIPSY KINGS

8 p.m. \$50-\$95. The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. 312-559-1212.

#### JOHN BALSLEY

10 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

#### LOVE ME ELECTRIC, AMERICAN TAXI, DANGER IS MY MIDDLE NAME, THE INSECURITIES

6 p.m. \$10. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

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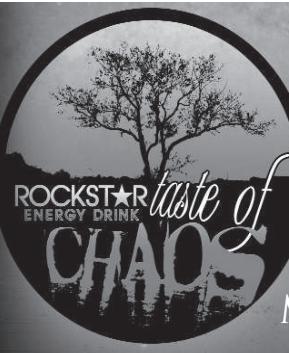
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Special Guest:  
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THIS THURSDAY!  
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**Jonathan Coulton**

Special Guest PAUL and STORM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
8:00pm • All Ages

PARK WEST  
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SUNDAY  
APRIL 26  
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## »» page 24

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9 p.m. \$10. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

**MOLEHILL, JACKPOT DONNIE, FARKUS, PARTS PER MILLION**  
9 p.m. \$9. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

**NO SLOGAN, DAYLIGHT ROBBERY, CANADIAN RIFLE, THE KRUNCHIES**  
9:30 p.m. \$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

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**Daniel Tosh**, Friday, April 24 (\$28.50-\$30, all ages) at Congress Theater.

**On sale noon Friday**

**A 30 db Production**, Wednesday, March 18 (\$25, 21+) at Schubas.

**Will Hoge**, Tuesday, April 14 (\$15-\$20, 18+) at Schubas.

**On sale 10 a.m. Saturday**

**Gavin DeGraw, Honeyhoney**, Wednesday, April 15 (\$25, all ages) at Park West.

**RORY LAKE'S BATTLE OF THE BANDS: COOLER BY THE LAKE, JUMPSUIT, JEWSUS, THE SASS DRAGONS**  
8 p.m. Cover varies. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

**SMOKING POPES, THE DIALS, HELICOPTERS**  
9 p.m. \$14. Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

**THE SUBDUES, KARISA WILSON**  
7 and 10 p.m. \$21-\$25. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

**THE SWELLERS, COUNTERPUNCH, HAWBIT**  
10 p.m. \$7-\$10. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

## Sunday

**CHERYL WHEELER, NAOMI ASHLEY BAND**  
8 p.m. \$18-\$22. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.



Gavin DeGraw

**On sale noon Saturday**

**Electric Six, Bang Camaro**, Monday, April 6 (\$15, 21+) at Double Door.

**Future Rock, Shout Out Out Out Out, Orchard Lounge**, Friday, April 24 (\$15, 18+) at Metro.

**Junior Boys, Max Tundra**, Thursday, April 2 (\$15, 18+) at Metro.

**Emmitt-Nershi Band**, Friday, April 10 (\$20, 21+) at Martyr's.

**M. Ward**, Sunday, April 26 (\$22, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

**Seal**, Wednesday, April 1 (\$45-\$75, all ages) at Civic Opera House.

**Static-X, Saliva, Burn Halo, The Flood**, Monday, April 27 (\$25-\$27, all ages) at House of Blues.

**CROSS EXAMINATION, CRUEL HAND, HARM'S WAY, STANG STOMPER**  
6:30 p.m. \$10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. [housecallent.com](http://housecallent.com)

**CYRUS CHESTNUT TRIO**  
4, 8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

**DORSEY, THE BLAMERS, DYLAN STARRS AND THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, MERLIN**  
8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

**I NEED SLEEP, EMPEROR X, RYLAN BOUCHARD**  
9:30 p.m. \$3. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

**JEROME HOLLOWAY, LAUREN FROST, ZAMBRICKI**  
9 p.m. \$5. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

**JUANA MOLINA**  
8 p.m. \$20. The Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.

**KOFFIN KATS, THE CREEPSHOW, THE MASSACRES, STANG STOMPER**  
6:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. [housecallent.com](http://housecallent.com)

**MARY MACARONI**  
Noon. \$5. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. [housecallent.com](http://housecallent.com)

**MISS AUTOPSY, LUIS FRANCESCO ARENA, JARED GRABB**  
9 p.m. \$7. Ronny's, 2101 N. California Ave. [mpshows.com](http://mpshows.com)

**PIETA BROWN, MIKE REEB**  
7 p.m. \$10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

**VITALLIGHT, WATERSTREET, ANTI-CREW, FLY PHOENIX**  
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# PERSONALLY JAZMINE

**Associated Press**

From its reggae-tinged opening salvo to its emotionally charged lyrics, Jazmine Sullivan's "Need U Bad" appeared destined to hit the top of the charts, as it did when it was released last year.

But it almost didn't make it to radio. Even though Sullivan co-wrote the tune, she fretted about putting it out as her debut single.

"I was a little hesitant to do the song because it was so different from everything else that was on the radio. It [has] a reggae vibe, and I didn't know how people would accept it," she said.

It's clear she's been accepted now.

Not only was the song a rousing success (it was No. 1 on the R&B charts), it and her album earned the 21-year-old Philadelphia native five Grammy nominations. She went 0-for-5 at the Feb. 8 ceremony, but she was happy with the nominations.

"It was unbelievable," Sullivan said before the awards. "Just one was enough, but five is just amazing."

With "Fearless," Sullivan has crafted an album that includes '60s pop, '80s dance and contemporary R&B.

"I'm influenced by everything when I write. It can be speaking to my girlfriends or very personal [things] from my experiences," she said. "That's one thing that separates my album from a lot of other albums—it's so diverse and that's who I am."

Though her CD is titled "Fearless," there are other songs on the CD that talk about being scared. On the song "Fear," she name-drops things she's afraid of—the dark, being in love, and whether her CD would flop or not.

Despite her recent success, Sullivan says her fears haven't been eased—in fact, she has even more to add to her list.

"I think there are more fears now, more pressure for what's to come," Sullivan said. "I can take it though. I'm a fighter."



**Jazmine Sullivan**

Opening for Ne-Yo with Musiq Soulchild

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 27

**Where:** Chicago Theatre, 165 N. State St.

**Tickets:** \$49.50-\$88, Ticketmaster

## Chicago's Kaspar Hauser returns

### Chicago Tribune

"Prodigal son, when will you ever come home?" sings Kaspar Hauser's Thomas Comerford on the band's latest, "The Sons." "Prodigal son, you know that you never walk alone."

The album, heavily influenced by the birth of Comerford's first child in late 2006, deals with a host of family-related issues: parental obligation, emotional distance and, on the song "Prodigal Son," redemption.

Comerford, who grew up as one of three siblings, admits that he's always been somewhat estranged from his own parents.

"I was always the weirdest of the three [kids]," says the singer, who's on a paid leave of absence from his job teaching film at the Art Institute. "But since [my wife and I] had our child, it seems like I get along with my parents better than before."

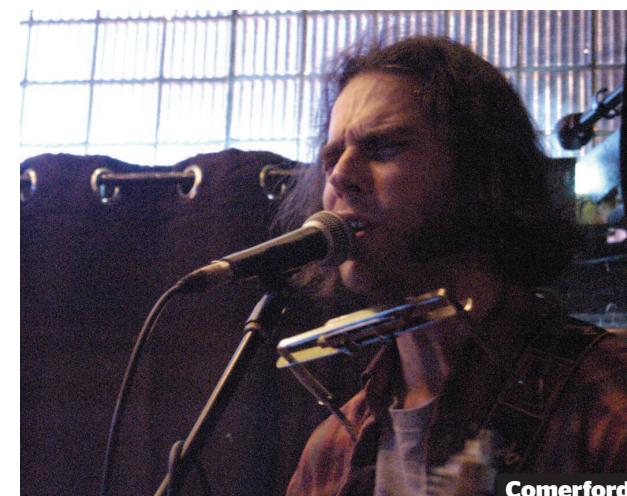
Indeed, "Prodigal Son," which finds the narrator reconnecting with a wayward child, was inspired by the simplest of

events: a drama-free Thanksgiving visit from the folks.

Despite the life-altering events that spurned it, "The Sons," recorded over the course of a year in a basement studio in Logan Square, remains unvarnished. Songs such as "Mark of Cain" and "Macbeth II (In the Morning)" are loaded with ragged blues riffs and drummer Steve Kiraly's loose-limbed kit-work. Says Comerford: "I know there are complicated ideas on the record, but I wanted the songs to be free of all that."

It's a trend that Comerford sees creeping into every project he tackles nowadays, be it music or film.

"In the past I was less aware of this idea of there being an audience," he says. "I enjoyed—especially with film—engaging in this highly aesthetic pursuit and not really worrying about anyone else's viewpoint. And I just didn't want to continue to work that way. I'm more interested now in being direct."



**Kaspar Hauser**

**Where:** Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave.

**When:** 9:30 p.m. Friday **Price:** \$10; [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com)

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# Conan's fast stand

O'Brien gears up for his final 'Late Night' and looks ahead to L.A.

## New York Times News Service

Over the past week, his last as host of NBC's "Late Night," Conan O'Brien has taken to entering the NBC headquarters at 30 Rockefeller Center in New York from the ice-rink side, breaking with his long routine of coming in from Avenue of the Americas.

"I was just determined that in the last few days, I would walk through the front and into that main entrance," O'Brien said. "I know I won't come this way again."

He added, "I'll probably cry like a baby on Friday night."

Friday is his last night on "Late Night"—show No. 2,725 in his 16-year run—before he decamps for L.A. to prepare to replace Jay Leno as host of NBC's "Tonight Show" on June 1. As part of an unusual deal, O'Brien has waited patiently for five years after the network announced that he would become Leno's successor in the premier real estate in late-night TV.

"I feel like that's sacred ground," O'Brien said. "That's the job I signed up for, and that's the job I'm excited about."

Sacred it may be, but that ground has shifted in the past few months. Rather than see Leno move on to another network to compete against his old show, NBC announced in December that it was opening up the 9 p.m. hour each weeknight for him, altering the makeup of late-night TV.

As some outsiders see it, O'Brien, who turned down offers from ABC and Fox to remain at NBC, could be stuck in a familiar

## JIMMY FALLON PREPARES TO TAKE OVER FOR CONAN.

**Page 33**

role—the follow-up act to Leno. It is a position that could leave him competing within his own network for guests and attention.

According to these people, O'Brien is getting, well, stiffed.

"I feel a little sorry for Conan," said one longtime late-night executive, asking not to be identified because of possible future business with NBC. "I think he's getting sandbagged."

The move gave O'Brien pause for about "an hour and 45 minutes," he said. "I took some time before I went to my producer and said: 'In this scenario, I'm still hosting that show that Johnny Carson had that I watched with my father in my living room, right?' And he said, 'Yes, you are.' And I said, 'Then I'm good.'"

Competitors certainly smell vulnerability. They point out that O'Brien is down to 1.9 million viewers this season from 2.6 million in 2007, though virtually all network shows have fallen off in recent years. Meanwhile, on Comedy Central, Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert posted record ratings last year and now land A-level guests.

On CBS, Craig Ferguson, whose show also is on at 11:35 p.m., has been winning fans and defying expectations by edging past O'Brien among total viewers on occasional nights. ("Late Night" consistently wins among younger viewers.) Jimmy Fallon, a former star of "Saturday Night Live," replaces O'Brien on March 2.

ABC's host, Jimmy Kimmel, has a show at 12:05 a.m., and his backers at that network have discussed a move up to 10:35 p.m. to

take O'Brien head-on. And David Letterman is talking about extending his CBS contract beyond next year, perhaps thinking he can reclaim late-night leadership.

O'Brien acknowledged some trepidation about the move. He described it by recalling a scene from the film "Apocalypse Now."

"I've spent my fair share of time at 3 in the morning," he said, "lying awake like Martin Sheen in the movie, staring at the ceiling fan, thinking about my trip up river—and we all know how that turned out."

Sitting in his cramped office on the ninth floor of NBC headquarters and wearing a sweatshirt and jeans, O'Brien noted the Pegboard with cards listing the final week's guests. The board routinely held a month of cards; now, as the cards came down, there would be no more. (The list for the final night remains a secret.)

"I'm a very sentimental person who is posing as a cynical person," said O'Brien, who met his wife, a copywriter, while taping a comedy bit for the show. "This is a period of my life that I will never re-create."

What he creates on "Tonight" will inevitably be different, he said, in ways still to be determined.

Several other late-night producers privately question whether O'Brien's comedy style—which he himself defines as more silly than sophisticated—will translate to the more traditional "Tonight" show. A competitor who would speak on the record, Rob Burnett of the Letterman show, said: "I think Conan will succeed. He's a really smart, really funny guy."



## TRIUMPH, THE INSULT COMIC DOG

Rude and toothless Rottweiler. But funny.



**O'Brien**  
NBC

## Greatest hits

"Late Night" has a long list of great comic moments. Here are some of the standouts. **NEWSDAY**

### IN THE YEAR 2000

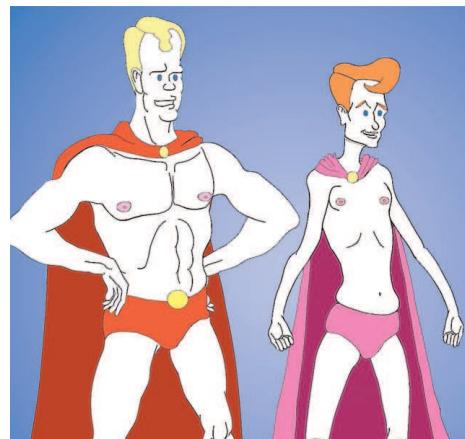
Looking into the crystal ball. Oddly, the segment continued even after the year 2000 passed.

### IF THEY MATED

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**Conan O'Brien gets out the ax.**  
NBC

## Curtain call, Conan-style

Leave it to Conan O'Brien to make an exit with a bang—literally.

The "Late Night" host, who ends his 16-year run on NBC's wee-hours series Friday, has been using an ax and sledgehammer to dismantle set pieces before giving them away to audience members throughout the week. It's been one of many out-of-the-ordinary bits on the show as O'Brien prepares to hand over the reins to Jimmy Fallon and head to L.A. to take over Jay Leno's "Tonight Show."

Other gems from the week: O'Brien and Bob Saget talking dirty jokes, a string-dance dance-off with Stephen Colbert, and Martha Stewart's visit, which included 40s of beer and Taco Bell food. Archive footage of Triumph the Insult Comic Dog hassling "Star Wars" nerds also was priceless.

So what will O'Brien do for his last show Friday—and who will his guest be? Aside from announcing The White Stripes as the musical guest, NBC won't say. Here's hoping to an appearance by comedian Jim Gaffigan, the Red Headed One's partner in pale, or former sidekick Andy Richter.

JIM WALSH, REDEYE

### RECLINER OF RAGE

Staffer Pierre Bernard sits in a recliner and describes his pet peeves.



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Pimp robot



### FEDEX POPE

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## Sticking around

Conan O'Brien says that everything fans like about his "Late Night" will be in the new "Tonight Show" when he takes over June 1.

He just has to make some adjustments.

"It's got to be my version of 'The Tonight Show,'" O'Brien said. "It should be different from what Jay did, from what Johnny [Carson] did. It's got to be unique. That's the only way it will work."

O'Brien and his staff have been kicking around ideas, holding weekly meetings over the last nine months to go over possibilities. They'll continue to work during the next three months, he said. Here are some skits he says could make the move to 10:35 p.m.:

**> "Telemundo Moments,"** in which O'Brien, in pencil mustache, plays an exaggerated telenovela character.

**> The Masturbating Bear,** O'Brien announced last week, would become known as Bear. Frantically Trying to Find his Cell Phone in his Fanny Pack.

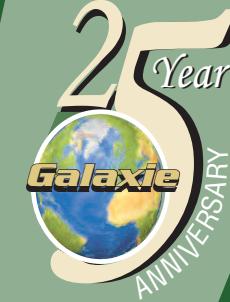
**> Triumph the Insult Comic Dog** will be back. "Triumph the Insult Comic Dog has been a guest on Jay Leno's 'Tonight Show' several times," O'Brien said.

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Fallon  
NBC

# A late show for the age of Internet

Jimmy Fallon wants to create the first late-night talk show for the Internet age.

Fallon, who takes over March 2 for Conan O'Brien as host of NBC's "Late Night," will launch a blog on the same day, he told reporters Thursday during a conference call.

"I'm just going to be honest with what I like and what I do and what I enjoy," the 34-year-old former "SNL" star said.

Fallon said he recognizes that "people are on the Internet all day." Fallon's show has hired three full-time bloggers, and his Web site will offer fans "funny things from the Internet," celeb news, video clips and original videos, he said.

He's already entrenched on several social networking sites including Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and Digg, he said, which he plans to



**show patrol**

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## Dream on, Jimmy, dream on

Jimmy Fallon's dream "Late Night" guests include Queen Elizabeth, Richard Branson and David Bowie.

He'll have to settle for Robert De Niro and musical guest Van Morrison. They will be the first guests when he takes over March 2 for Conan O'Brien as host of the NBC late-night show.

"De Niro was my first choice," Fallon told reporters Thursday. Other guests for his first week include Tina Fey, Fallon's old "Weekend Update" deskmate from "SNL." "I figured [I'd] call in the favors early," he said.

But, back to those dream guests. Fallon joked that he'd love to play Wii games with the queen or travel into space with Bowie and adventurer Branson. "I could be the first talk-show host in space. That'd be awesome," Fallon said, adding, "My publicist just dropped her phone." cw.

## FALLON'S 1ST WEEK GUEST LIST

**March 2:** Robert De Niro, Van Morrison

**March 3:** Tina Fey, Jon Bon Jovi, Santigold

**March 4:** Cameron Diaz, Billy Crudup

**March 5:** Donald Trump, Serena Williams, Ludacris

**March 6:** Drew Barrymore, Mario Batali

SOURCE: NBC

incorporate into the show—although he hasn't figured out exactly how to do that yet.

"I want to be as interactive as possible," he said. This interactivity also will make him a destination, even though his will be the third talk show to air on NBC each night—after Jay Leno's new 9 p.m. show (starting in the fall) and O'Brien's 10:30 p.m. "Tonight" (starting in June).

"Honestly, I just want to keep people awake," Fallon said. "Or at least give you one

good joke to go to bed with."

He'll also bring his audience some great music. His house band is the rap group The Roots, including members Black Thought (Tariq Trotter) and Ahmir "?uestlove" Thompson.

"Don't even watch for me," he said. "The band alone will freak your bean. They're going to give you a heart attack."

For more from the interview, visit [redeyechicago.com/showpatrol](http://redeyechicago.com/showpatrol).

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Ready for your close-up?

Want to have your picture taken with an actual Oscar? Visit the Shops at North Bridge (520 N. Michigan Ave.) through Sunday, where the Academy is presenting a "Meet the Oscars, Chicago" exhibit. You can have your picture snapped with the statue and see other Oscars in various stages of completion.



#### MORE OSCAR COVERAGE

- » Oscar predictions by-the-numbers. Whoville, **Page 46**.
- » Can Hugh Jackman save the Oscars? In Saturday's RedEye

# And the Oscar goes to ... Matilda

#### Associated Press

If Heath Ledger is named best supporting actor at Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony, his daughter, 3-year-old Matilda Rose Ledger, will become the owner of the Oscar statuette.

But it won't really be hers until her 18th birthday on Oct. 28, 2023—and even then, only if she signs a contract.

Matilda, daughter of the late Ledger and actress Michelle Williams, has been designated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as the eventual owner of her father's Oscar, should he win for his portrayal of the Joker in "The Dark Knight." The Oscars air at 7 p.m. Sunday on ABC.

The actor died of an accidental overdose of prescription drugs last year at the age of 28.

But Ledger's nomination, and his daughter's young age, led to one of the trickiest situations the academy has dealt with in its eight decades of awarding posthumous Oscars.

"It's complicated, because there are two different questions that have to be answered," says Bruce Davis, executive director of the academy. "First, we have to decide who gets the job of accepting the award onstage on the night of the ceremony. And then there's the question of the eventual disposition of the posthumous statuette, which may not stay with the per-

son who accepts it."

In Ledger's case, says Davis, the second question was the hardest to answer.

Academy tradition calls for a posthumous statuette to go to the spouse, or, if there is no living spouse, to the oldest child. Ledger wasn't married, and Matilda is his only child.

Yet because she is only 3, Matilda is legally unable to sign the winner's agreement—a contract required of all nominees that says the recipient will not resell his or her Oscar without first offering it back to the academy for \$1.

"From our point of view, somebody has to sign the winner's agreement, and a 3-year-old can't do that," Davis says. "Nor can a parent sign any kind of legal document that obligates a child to do something once they turn 18. I didn't know that before we looked into it, but it's a good law."

After conversations with Williams and with Ledger's family in Australia, the academy hit on a solution: The Oscar statuette can spend the next 15 years with Matilda, but her mother, who has signed the academy's agreement, will be the legal custodian. When Matilda is old enough, she can claim ownership by signing the agreement. If she does so, she'll become the official owner; if she opts not to sign, the statuette will revert

#### Winner's agreement

The AMPAS requires all Oscar nominees to sign a contract specifying that they will not sell their statuette without first offering it back to the academy for \$1.

The so-called winner's agreement dates back to 1951, when the organization began to worry about orphaned Oscars going to the highest bidder. So, how many winners have sold their statuettes to the academy for a buck?

None, says Bruce Davis of the Academy, although Oscars still make their way back to the academy's custody.

The academy says it owns almost 100 statuettes that have been returned by winners, heirs, or buyers like Steven Spielberg, who purchased pre-agreement Oscars won by Clark Gable and Bette Davis to return them to AMPAS. AP

to the academy without any payment.

As for who would accept the award, that is a matter that show producers Laurence Mark and Bill Condon are keeping under wraps. Davis will only say that tradition calls for a posthumous Oscar to be accepted either by a close relative or "an artist who was close to the nominee, and who can speak credibly for him or her."

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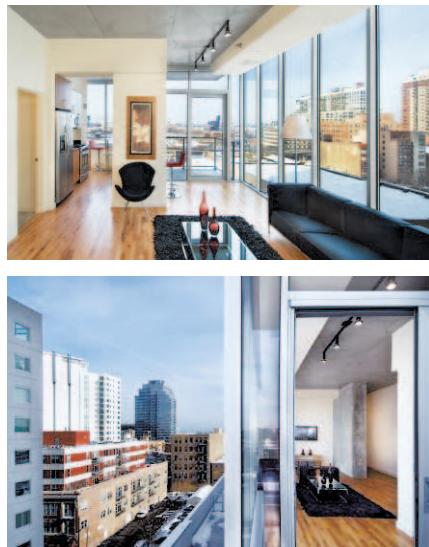
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## Co-stars 'Fired Up' over cheerleading

### The Orlando Sentinel

In the new comedy "Fired Up," two high school football jocks looking to score pretend to be cheerleaders at a glee camp. It's not the sort of high-brow comedy that will win critical acclaim.

The film, opening Friday, is "Wedding Crashers" meets "Bring It On," jokes star Eric Christian Olsen, 31.

Olsen, who plays one of the players turned playas, and co-star Sarah Roemer, 24, who plays the star cheerleader, chatted about the film.

### So, who developed "a newfound respect for cheerleaders" while making this?

**SR:** I had no idea how hard the work is, how athletic you have to be to do that stuff. We did two weeks of Cheer Boot Camp, 8-to-5 every day. An incredible workout.

**ECO:** I always had love, lotsa love, for cheerleaders. Maybe a little admiration. But respect? Not until I did this movie. I got the crap kicked out of me. I played hockey for 15 years, and I got more beaten up and injured on this movie than I ever did in skates!

Nick (D'Agosto, his co-star) and I were essentially chucking these carcasses (girls) 15 feet into the air. I'd come home, take my shirt off, and you'd swear I'd just done a month on "Gladiator." Bruises, scrapes. I

had to tape my wrist. I blew an ankle out. My lower back was screwed up. Boot camp broke us, made us feel like pansies.

**SR:** I was surprised at how dangerous it could be. You'd think the hardest, scariest thing would be the stunts, getting tossed in the air and all. It wasn't, so long as the girls teaching us were tossing me. They made me feel light as a feather. But the guys on the set? I was scared to death!

**ECO:** Actresses are such fragile, skinny little things!

### You guys are both well out of high school. What made you want to go back there for the movie?

**ECO:** I didn't. Totally didn't want to do this. Dude, my last shot at playing high school was like FIVE years ago! No WAY! But the script was funny, and this has nooo grounding in reality! You just shave twice a day to pull it off.

**SR:** I didn't cheer in high school. I was the farthest thing from a cheerleader in high school. We made fun of cheerleaders. Everybody did! But no more. All that choreography? I couldn't make sense of it.

**ECO:** Thank God it's film, right? If you can't get it in one take, you can get it in take II. Or parts of take four and take II!

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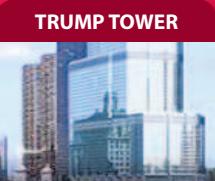
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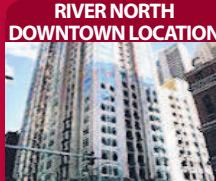


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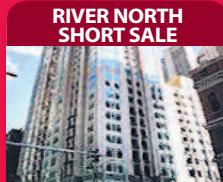


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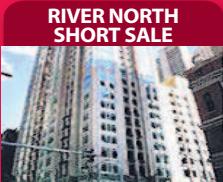


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## CORALINE

**@BenjaminBB** "Coraline" was either really good or really bad, but I'm still disoriented.

## MILK, CORALINE

**@anddarling** "Milk" and "Coraline" are my two favorite films of the year so far. "Milk" will make you cry and "Coraline" will make you

gasp.

## MILK

**@Specialist17** The way the film depicted Harvey Milk and his life were truly inspirational. I now know of him and his sacrifices for the gay community.

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- **Friday the 13th** (R) 2:15,5:00,7:40,10:10
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 1:50,4:40,7:20,10:00
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 1:00,4:00,7:10,10:20
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 1:30 P.M.
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 1:40,6:45
- **AMC Select Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:10,4:30,7:30,10:30
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) 3:00,5:45,8:15,11:00
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- **The Reader** (R) 3:15,6:45,10:00
- **Milk** (R) 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:20
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:45,4:40,7:40,8:45,10:30
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- **Fired Up** (PG-13) \* 11:50,2:30,5:20,7:50,10:20
- **Friday the 13th** (R) \* 1:30,1:10,2:20,3:30,5:10,6:20,7:40,9:00,10:15
- **International** (R) \* 1:10,2:00,5:00,8:00,10:40
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) \* 10:20,1:20,4:05,7:00,10:10
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 9:50,12:40,3:45,6:45,9:50
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 11:40,2:10,3:30,7:10,9:30
- **Push** (PG-13) 10:40,1:40,4:50,7:30,10:30
- **Coroline 3D** (PG) 10:00,12:50,3:45,6:50,9:40
- **Taken** (PG-13) 10:10,12:30,3:00,5:30,8:15,10:45
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 10:30,1:10,3:50
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) 11:20,1:50,4:40,7:15,9:45
- **Gran Torino** (R) 6:30,9:20

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- **International** (R) \* 4:50,7:20,9:50
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DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE) (continued)

- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 5:10,7:30,10:00
- **Doubt** (PG-13) 5:00,7:15,9:30

### FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago  
(773) 582-1839

Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Fired Up** (PG-13) 11:00,1:20,3:40,5:50,8:00,10:15
- **Madea Goes** (PG-13) 10:50,11:30,12:10,12:45,13:00,2:10,2:50,3:30,4:10,5:30,6:30,7:40,8:15,9:30,10:10,10:40
- **International** (R) 11:10,1:15,4:30,7:15,10:00
- **Friday the 13th** (R) 10:45,1:10,2:00,3:03,4:15,5:45,6:45,7:30,8:15,9:00,9:45,10:30
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:50,10:20
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 10:50,1:30,4:20,7:10,9:20
- **Push** (PG-13) 4:00,6:30,9:15
- **Coroline** (PG) 11:20,1:45,4:20,7:10,9:40
- **Taken** (PG-13) 11:00,1:15,3:30,5:45,8:00,10:15
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 11:50 A.M.
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 11:15,1:40
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) 10:45,12:50,3:00,5:25,7:45,9:50

### GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street  
312-486-2800

- **Heaven Can Wait** (PG) 6:00
- **Harvard Beats** (NR) 6:00,8:00
- **Landscape** (NR) 8:15

### LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago  
(773) 252-0628

- **Frost/Nixon** (R) 2:00,4:15,6:25,8:40
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 2:00,3:35,5:15,6:50,8:30
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 2:00,4:05,6:15,8:20
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 2:05,5:05,8:05

### MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago  
(773) 871-6604

- **Just Another** (NR) 5:20,7:40
- **The Wrestler** (R) 5:15,7:30,9:45
- **Animated** (NR) 9:50,12:00
- **Rocky Horror** (R) 12:00, Midnight

### PIPER'S ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago  
(312) 642-7500

Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Delhi 6** (NR) 3:30,6:30,9:40
- **AMC Select The Wrestler** (R) 2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00
- **AMC Select Waltz-Bashir** (R) 3:45,5:55,8:15,10:30
- **AMC Select Rachel Getting** (R) 2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15

### RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street  
847-765-7262

Show times change daily

- **Fired Up** (PG-13) 10:20,12:50,3:25,6:05,8:45,11:25
- **Madea Goes** (PG-13) 10:50,11:50,1:50,2:50,4:45,5:45,7:40,8:40,10:35,11:35
- **International** (R) 10:50,2:00,5:15,8:30,11:30,11:45
- **Friday the 13th** (R) 10:00,11:00,12:40,1:40,3:30,4:30,6:15,7:15,8:55,9:55,11:40
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 10:45,11:45,1:30,2:30,4:20,5:20,7:20,8:20,10:15,11:15

### CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie  
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Madea Goes** (PG-13) \* 10:45,1:15,4:30,5:45,8:45,11:45
- **International** (R) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Friday the 13th** (R) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Push** (PG-13) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Coroline** (PG) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Taken** (PG-13) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30

### CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie  
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **Madea Goes** (PG-13) \* 1:00,4:00,7:00,9:00,11:00
- **International** (R) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Friday the 13th** (R) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Push** (PG-13) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Coroline** (PG) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Taken** (PG-13) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) \* 1:30,2:00,4:30,5:30,8:30,11:30

### CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES) (continued)

- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 12:40,3:40,6:40,7:40,9:40,10:30,12:40
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 1:10,3:50,6:20,8:50,11:45
- **Coroline 3D** (PG) 11:40,2:20,4:50,7:30,9:55,12:20
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 1:15,2:50,5:30,8:00,10:20
- **Underworld** (R) 12:55 A.M.
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 11:50,1:20,2:20,5:00
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) 11:30,1:10,5:45,6:45,9:00,11:30
- **Push** (PG-13) 2:00,4:45,7:40,9:40
- **Coroline 3D** (PG) 11:40,2:20,4:50,7:30,9:55,12:20
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 1:15,2:50,5:30,8:00,10:20
- **Underworld** (R) 12:45,2:45,5:45,7:40,9:40
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) 11:30,1:10,5:45,6:45,9:00,11:30

### CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak  
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **Madea Goes** (PG-13) \* 1:00,2:00,2:30,3:40,4:40,5:10,6:10,7:10,7:50,9:15,9:50,10:20
- **Fired Up** (PG-13) \* 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:30,10:20
- **Friday the 13th** (R) \* 1:30,2:10,4:30,5:00,6:30,7:30,9:10,10:10,10:20
- **International** (R) \* 1:20,5:30,6:40,9:45
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) \* 1:20,4:15,7:10,9:20
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 2:45,5:20
- **Push** (PG-13) 4:40,3:30,7:15,10:15
- **Coroline 3D** (PG) 11:40,2:20,4:30,6:30,8:40,9:40
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 1:20,4:20,5:30,7:20,10:20,10:40
- **Taken** (PG-13) 12:40,3:30,6:20,9:00
- **Underworld** (R) 7:45,10:30
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) 2:15,5:15,7:40,10:05

### OAK PARK

#### LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street  
630-444-FILM #560

- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 12:10,2:30,4:50,7:10,9:30
- **International** (R) 1:00,4:00,6:45,9:20
- **Coroline 3D** (PG) 12:15,2:30,4:45,7:00,9:15
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 12:00,2:10,4:20,6:30,8:40,9:40
- **He's Just Not** (PG-13) 1:30,4:15,7:50,9:50
- **Taken** (PG-13) 1:05,3:15,5:25,7:35,9:45
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 2:00,4:40,7:20,10:00

### CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 MAPLE AVE.  
(847)492-0123

- **Fired Up** (PG-13) \* 1:20,4:30,5:20,7:40,9:55
- **The Reader** (R) \* 1:00,4:20,5:20,7:40,9:55
- **Madea Goes** (PG-13) \* 1:15,35,2:00,3:45,4:45,6:05,7:15,8:40,9:45
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) \* 1:15,25,2:45,4:55,7:20,9:50
- **Friday the 13th** (R) 1:30,2:10,4:00,5:00,6:30,7:30,9:10,10:00
- **International** (R) 1:20,5:30,5:40,6:40,9:45
- **Confess-Shop** (PG) 1:40,4:15,7:00,9:20
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 2:20 P.M.
- **Coroline** (PG) 1:10,4:10,6:45,9:40
- **Push** (PG-13) 1:20,4:30,7:15,10:15
- **The Uninvited** (PG-13) 4:50,7:20,10:20,10:10
- **Taken** (PG-13) 12:40,3:30,6:20,9:00
- **Hotel for Dogs** (PG) 2:30,5:10
- **Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) 4:25,10:15
- **Pink Panther 2** (PG) 12:35,3:00,5:25,7:50,10:10
- **Push** (PG-13) 10:35
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:35,4:45,5:50,7:30,10:20
- **The Class** (NR) 1:40,4:45,7:40,10:35
- **Benjamin Button** (PG-13) 1:15,4:55,6:50
- **International** (R) \* 1:40,4:30,7:25,10:05
- **The Wrestler** (R) 1:10,4:20,5:15,7:35,10:20

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## Bra Bag

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Tired of stuffing your bras into your suitcase, only to find the cups crushed or dented? Meet the "Brag," a perky bra-shaped carrying case that's meant to solve your problem. I fit five bras comfortably in the case, with some success. While the bras at the front maintained their shape, those at the back got creased. My big concern was carrying the bag around—and indeed, "L" riders shot me a few curious looks. The matching Panty Pak, a \$29.95 purse with pockets for "clean" and "not so clean" underwear (about three pairs fit in each pocket), is adorable. **ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ, REDEYE**



## FASHION

## Gap ruffle striped cardigan \$44.50 at Gap

This Gap cardigan is the perfect combo of girly and tough. The ruffles give it a sweet side, while the short sleeves and gray stripes make it edgier. Layer it now for cold days, wear alone as a top once it warms up.

**JOANNA GUSTAFSON FOR REDEYE**



## TRAVEL

Laid-off Take Off at [intrepidtravel.com/laidofftakeoff](http://intrepidtravel.com/laidofftakeoff)

We've found a perk to the pink slip, folks. Intrepid Travel is offering 15 percent discounts on many group trips to people who have been laid off. Sample itineraries: treks through Tibet, train rides across China and camping in the Amazon. Use promo code 2653 and present proof of your layoff when you book. **MICHAEL HINES, REDEYE**



## TV

## Flight of the Conchords

9 p.m. Sunday, HBO

Kristen Wiig (left) of "Saturday Night Live" guest stars as Barbara (or is it Brahbrah?), the owner of a missing dog suffering from epilepsy. Both Bret and Jemaine fall for her, leading to a duel, a benefit song and concert, and a laugh-out-loud, 1980s cheese-inspired video for the song "Love is the Weapon of Choice." **CURT WAGNER, REDEYE**

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76K MILES #21245A		05 LEXUS RX330	\$22,250
02 AUDI A6 4.2 SEDAN	\$10,590	32K MILES #P0516A	
#21224B		06 BMW X5 3.0i	\$23,500
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474 MILES #P0569A			

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03 Volkswagen Passat	\$8,590	05 Volkswagen Rabbit	\$14,250
42K Miles #21262A		5K Miles #21289A	
04 Volkswagen Jetta GLS	\$10,990	07 Volkswagen Jetta 2.5	\$14,590
54K Miles #21251A		20K Miles #20885A	
05 Volkswagen Passat GLS	\$11,250	07 Volkswagen Jetta 2.5	\$14,590
53K Miles #P04640		25K Miles #20948A	
04 Volkswagen Passat GLS	\$12,590	05 Volkswagen Passat GLS	\$14,950
#P0517, 41K Miles		35K Miles #P0539	
06 Volkswagen Beetle	\$12,990	06 Volkswagen Jetta 2.5	\$14,990
32K Miles #P0576		44K Miles #21195A	
04 Volkswagen Passat GLS	\$12,990	08 Volkswagen Jetta S	\$15,250
36K Miles #P0540		20K Miles #P0556	
05 Volkswagen Passat GLS	\$12,990	07 Volkswagen Jetta 2.5	\$15,250
45K Miles #P0542		9K Miles #P0533	
05 Volkswagen Jetta GL	\$12,990	06 Volkswagen Passat 2.0T	\$15,490
#P0528, 29K Miles		42K Miles #P0530	
05 Volkswagen New Jetta	\$12,990	05 Volkswagen Jetta GLS	\$15,590
2.5 #P0527, 43K Miles		32K Miles #21242A	
05 Volkswagen Jetta	\$13,365	07 Volkswagen Passat 2.0T	\$15,590
29K Miles #P0533		36K Miles #P0568	
05 Volkswagen Jetta	\$13,390	05 Volkswagen GTI 2.0T	\$15,690
32K Miles #P0526		43K Miles #P0554A	
05 Volkswagen Jetta	\$13,590	08 Volkswagen Rabbit	\$15,990
25K Miles #P0514		3K Miles #P0534	
05 Volkswagen GTI	\$13,590	07 Volkswagen New Beetle 2.5	\$15,990
29K Miles #P0518		20K Miles, Conv't #21110A	
06 Volkswagen Jetta 2.5	\$13,590	08 Volkswagen Rabbit Htchbk	\$15,990
40K Miles, #P0555		2K Miles, #21068A	
06 Volkswagen Jetta 2.5	\$13,590	07 Volkswagen New Beetle 2.5	\$16,990
45K Miles, #P0549		16K Miles, Conv't #P0577	
07 Volkswagen Rabbit Htchbk	\$13,590	07 Volkswagen Passat 3.6	\$18,790
33K Miles, #P0524		13K Miles, #P0573	

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# Kissing as foreplay: Overrated?



## The ultimate pre-sex test

For me, kissing is a necessity. The fact that most men would prefer to skip kissing shows that they aren't interested in doing the leg work to get the reward. You wouldn't jump into the game without some pre-game warm-up, right? Kissing's important because it sets the mood and expectations for the events to come. I've made out with some bad kissers and when that happens, I call a timeout. If they can't even get the kiss right, there is no way they can satisfy me in bed. A kiss is never just a kiss. **BOY ON BOYSTOWN**

COLUMNIST JASON STEELE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

## Let's get this party started right

The results aren't surprising. Generally, a steamy make-out session is the best way to get the party started for most women. Apparently, men need less preparation—the party could be in full swing pre-lip lock. But every situation's different. Some people kiss more when they're in actual relationships, and not as much during hot-and-heavy hookups. I know women who feel disrespected if they don't get at least a few kisses before sack time. Personally, I think kissing is a sexy prelude—depending on the partner. Kissing is an art, and I love a skillful kisser. However, if a man is a sloppy snogger who thinks that "sucking face" is a literal term, perhaps the party might stop before it begins. **GINA SPOT** COLUMNIST GINA B.

IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

## Instant gratification never good

Skipping to sex before kissing is like being drafted for the NFL when you're in elementary school. Just the thought of it makes me picture myself at 12 years old wearing oversize pads and a uniform, poised on the line of scrimmage and blinking into the sun before Bears DT Tommie Harris cracks my spine. Still, it's not exactly shocking that men are more OK with skipping straight to sex (stating this like it's a new fact is like saying, "I'll bet Marilyn Manson wasn't all that popular in high school.") I'm mostly just mad because this means that 14.6 percent of the women I've dated were even less into making out with me than I imagined at the time. **STEPHEN MARKLEY** IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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## THE SETUP

In a recent Gallup poll, 52.9 percent of men and 14.6 percent of women said they felt they could skip kissing and dive right into the sack.



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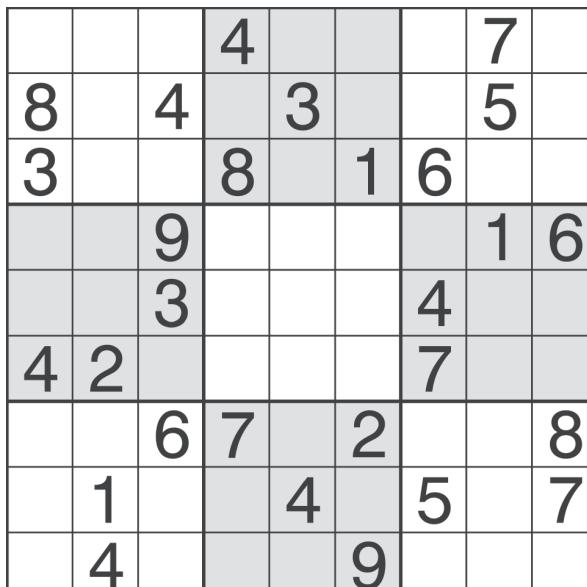
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David Hunter of Chinatown gave up, while John finished with a time of 39 minutes. E-mail [redeyeeditor@tribune.com](mailto:redeyeeditor@tribune.com) or text "John" and your e-mail address to 32332 to play.

**39 min. Gave up**

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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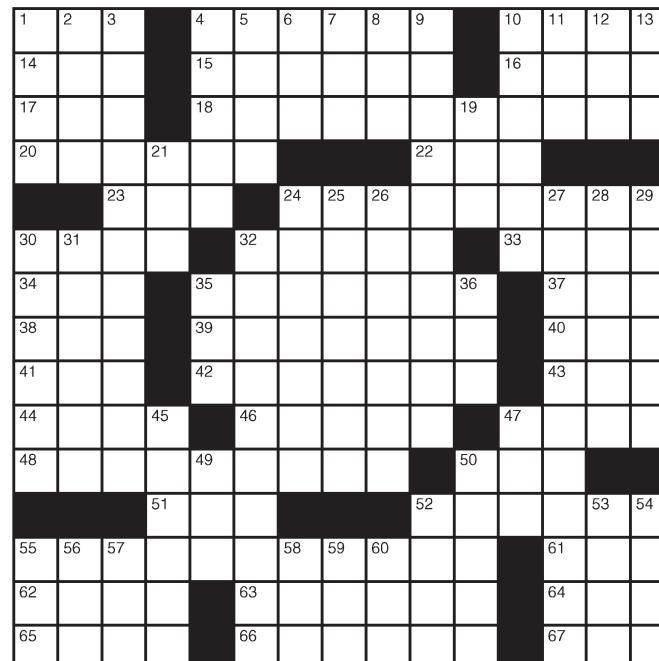
Listen to John Williams from 5 to 9 a.m. on News/Talk 720 WGN.

**THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS****ACROSS**

1 -tac-toe  
4 Finally!  
10 Flounder cousin  
14 Big fuss  
15 Slight quake  
16 Legal bargain  
17 X  
18 Weight room denizen  
20 Off target  
22 Block of time  
23 Turncoat  
24 Plant fungus  
30 Say grace  
32 University of Maine setting  
33 Rabbit relative  
34 RPM word  
35 Formal letter  
37 Edge of a crater  
38 Adam's partner  
39 Cigarette additive  
40 Indy circuit  
41 Bog  
42 Destroyers  
43 Lennon's widow  
44 Expanses  
46 Substandard urban housing  
47 Mardi \_\_  
48 Linens  
50 Rascal  
51 POW possibly  
52 Sophisticated  
55 Put concisely  
61 Crackers  
62 Nabokov novel  
63 Texas oranges  
64 Demouement  
65 Askew  
66 Latest  
67 Express vocally

**DOWN**

1 Bye-bye!  
2 March middle  
3 Denied the truth of  
4 On deck followup  
5 Ex-QB Aikman



6 Trailblazed  
7 Writer Tan  
8 Express sorrow  
9 1991 John Cusack film  
10 Result of a cannonball  
11 Advanced in age  
12 Marvin or Remick  
13 Corn serving  
19 Tick off  
21 Sunbeam  
24 Patchy colored

25 Missed the boat  
26 National songs  
27 After-dinner pastimes  
28 Journalist Fallaci  
29 Paces  
30 Module classroom  
31 Midnight rider of old  
32 Hunting period  
35 Outback bird  
36 Ernie of the PGA  
45 An equal amount

47 Flap lips  
49 With it  
50 Force from  
52 Shoshones  
53 Granny  
54 Form into a vortex  
55 Air purifier letters?  
56 Compass dir.  
57 Geom. shape  
58 Put into practice  
59 Regulation  
60 Become mellow

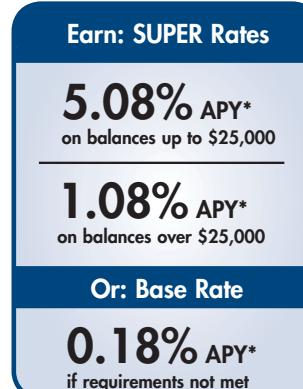
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\*\*\*No payments till May 2009 through Chase Auto Finance with qualified credit. Add tax, title, license and doc fee. All rebates & incentives applied. Offers expire 3 days from date of publication.

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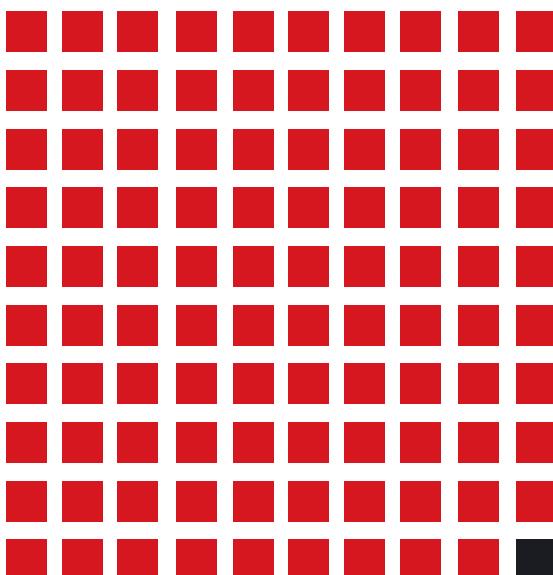
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Dev Patel (left) and Freida Pinto in "Slumdog Millionaire"

FOX SEARCHLIGHT



#### BEST PICTURE

Slumdog Millionaire	99.0%
Milk	1.0%
Frost/Nixon	0.0%
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button	0.0%
The Reader	0.0%

**REDEYE:** Can't stop the "Slumdog" train. No how.

NOTE: NUMBERS DO NOT EQUAL 100 PERCENT IN ALL CASES.

# BET ON IT!

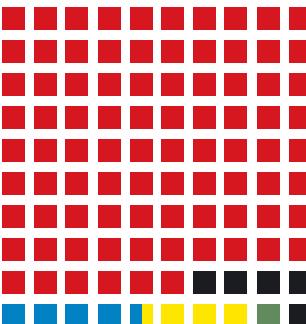
Nate Silver is 99.7 percent sure Danny Boyle will win best director for "Slumdog Millionaire" at the Oscars on Sunday. And he's 85.8 percent sure the late Heath Ledger will reign in the supporting actor category.

So who is Nate Silver?

Politicos know him as the stats guy who predicted the presidential election with eerie precision last year on [fivethirtyeight.com](http://fivethirtyeight.com). Now, Silver is predicting the Oscar winners for New York Magazine, using statistical software and a database of the past 30 years of Oscar history. Here are his picks—along with RedEye's comments.

The numbers represent the percent chance each nominee has of winning, according to Silver's analysis.

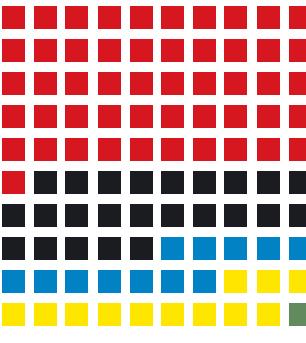
BY  
JIM  
WALSH



#### SUPPORTING ACTOR

Heath Ledger	85.8%
Josh Brolin	5.0%
Philip Seymour Hoffman	4.4%
Michael Shannon	3.6%
Robert Downey Jr.	1.2%

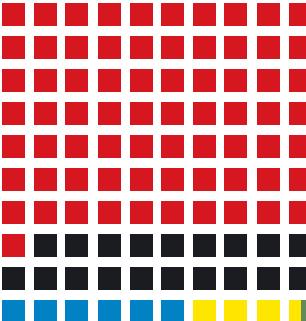
**REDEYE:** Who isn't rooting for Heath?



#### SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Taraji P. Henson	51.0%
Penelope Cruz	24.6%
Viola Davis	11.6%
Amy Adams	11.6%
Marisa Tomei	1.2%

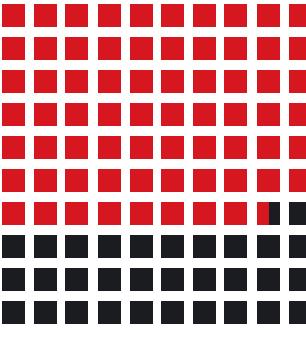
**REDEYE:** If Henson wins, her speech better not be as long as "Button."



#### LEAD ACTOR

Mickey Rourke	71.1%
Sean Penn	19.0%
Brad Pitt	5.9%
Frank Langella	3.4%
Richard Jenkins	0.5%

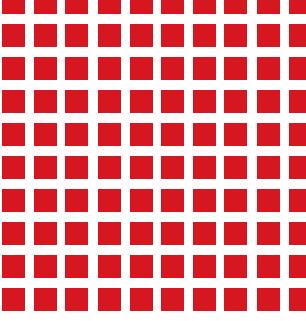
**REDEYE:** Looks like Penn won't be able to "Milk" his role for a statue.



#### LEAD ACTRESS

Kate Winslet	67.6%
Meryl Streep	32.4%
Anne Hathaway	0.0%
Melissa Leo	0.0%
Angelina Jolie	0.0%

**REDEYE:** For once in her life, Angelina Jolie is a zero.



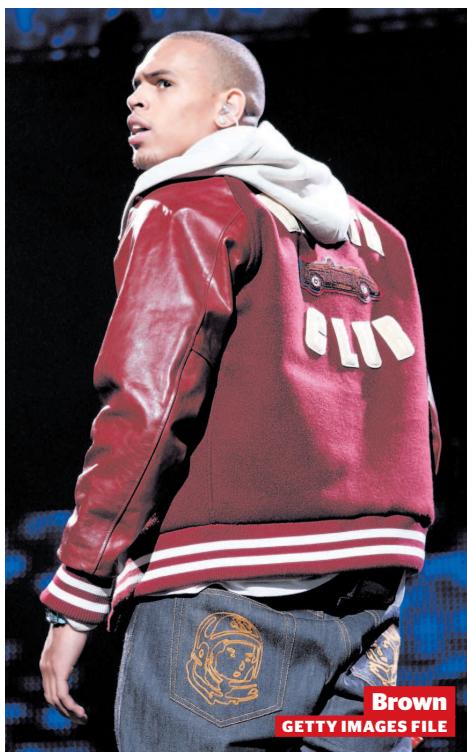
#### BEST DIRECTOR

Danny Boyle	99.7%
Gus Van Sant	0.1%
David Fincher	0.1%
Ron Howard	0.0%
Stephen Daldry	0.0%

**REDEYE:** Seriously? 99.7 percent?

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**Brown**  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

## From bad to worse?

Things seem to be getting worse for Chris Brown. At the request of the L.A. district attorney's office, the 19-year-old R&B singer is being investigated for a variety of felonies, including domestic violence, assault resulting in great bodily injury and even attempted murder in the alleged beating of pop star girlfriend Rihanna, E! News reported. Also, [tmz.com](http://tmz.com) released on Thursday a photo of Rihanna, who turns 21 on Friday, taken after the alleged beating. In the photo, her face appears bruised with marks on her forehead.

**Hot fuzz**

An actor in "The Wrestler" has been taken into custody by the feds after a brief car chase Wednesday in the New York 'burbs, the AP reports. Authorities say Scott Siegel led police and federal agents on a pursuit before the 34-year-old suspect rammed his car into an Eastchester police cruiser. He later abandoned the car and was caught on foot.

**Going with the Flo**

Rapper Flo Rida notched his second No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart Thursday after the '80s-sampled track "Right Round" surged 57 places, [billboard.com](http://billboard.com) reported. Flo Rida was previously at No. 1 with "Low," the longest-running chart-topper of 2008 with 10 weeks at the top.

## In the doghouse

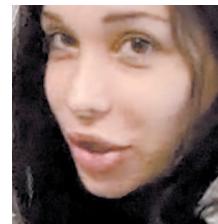
Who we're sick of this week:

**THE OCTO FAMILY**

[tmz.com](http://tmz.com) is reporting Nadya Suleman, whose mom is facing foreclosure, is interested in buying a home listed for \$1.24 million—yes we said million. But wait, there's more: Octo Grandma sold photos of her daughter and brood to *Us Weekly* for a hefty but undisclosed sum, [msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com)'s "The Scoop" reports. And ... Octo Grandpa will be on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in an episode to air Tuesday, [usmagazine.com](http://usmagazine.com) reported.

**KATY PERRY**

Katy Perry denies she's dating Benji Madden on her blog. Also, her heart belongs to her cat Kitty Purry and her best friend, Markus Molinari. Someone loves her cat a bit too much.



**Nadya Suleman**



**Perry**

**NKOTB**

The boys are back with a video for their song "2 in the Morning," which features tired dance moves. Sorry guys, but it's time to go away. Now.

**txtable**

## Two-timer

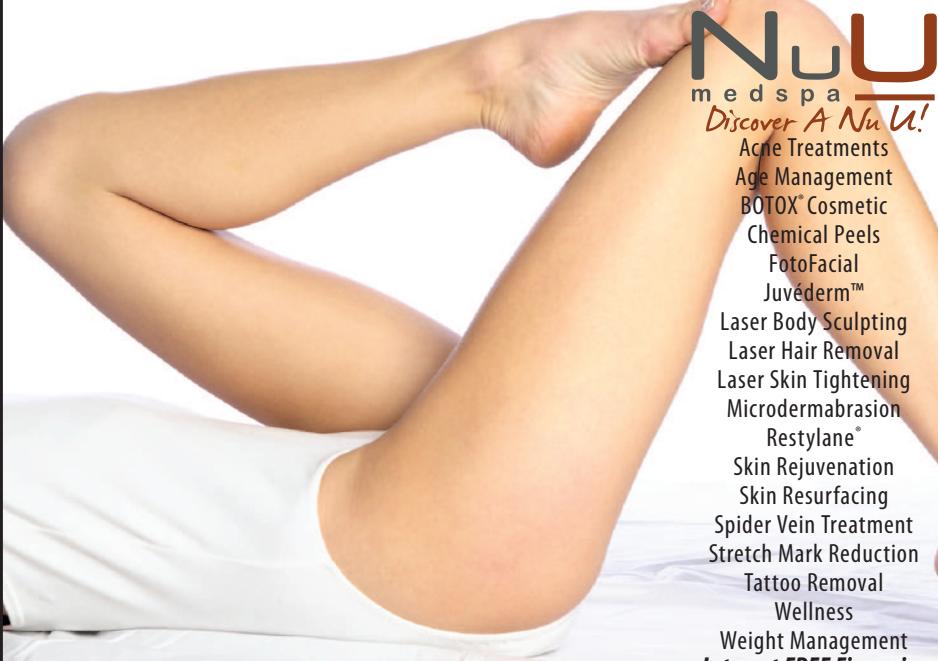
This week, Lady GaGa became the first solo female lead artist to have her first two Billboard chart entries appear in the top 10 simultaneously since whom? Text "gaga" and the number of your answer to 47383. You'll get a text back telling you whether you got it right.

1. Ciara
2. Britney Spears
3. Gwen Stefani
4. Christina Aguilera

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# red hot

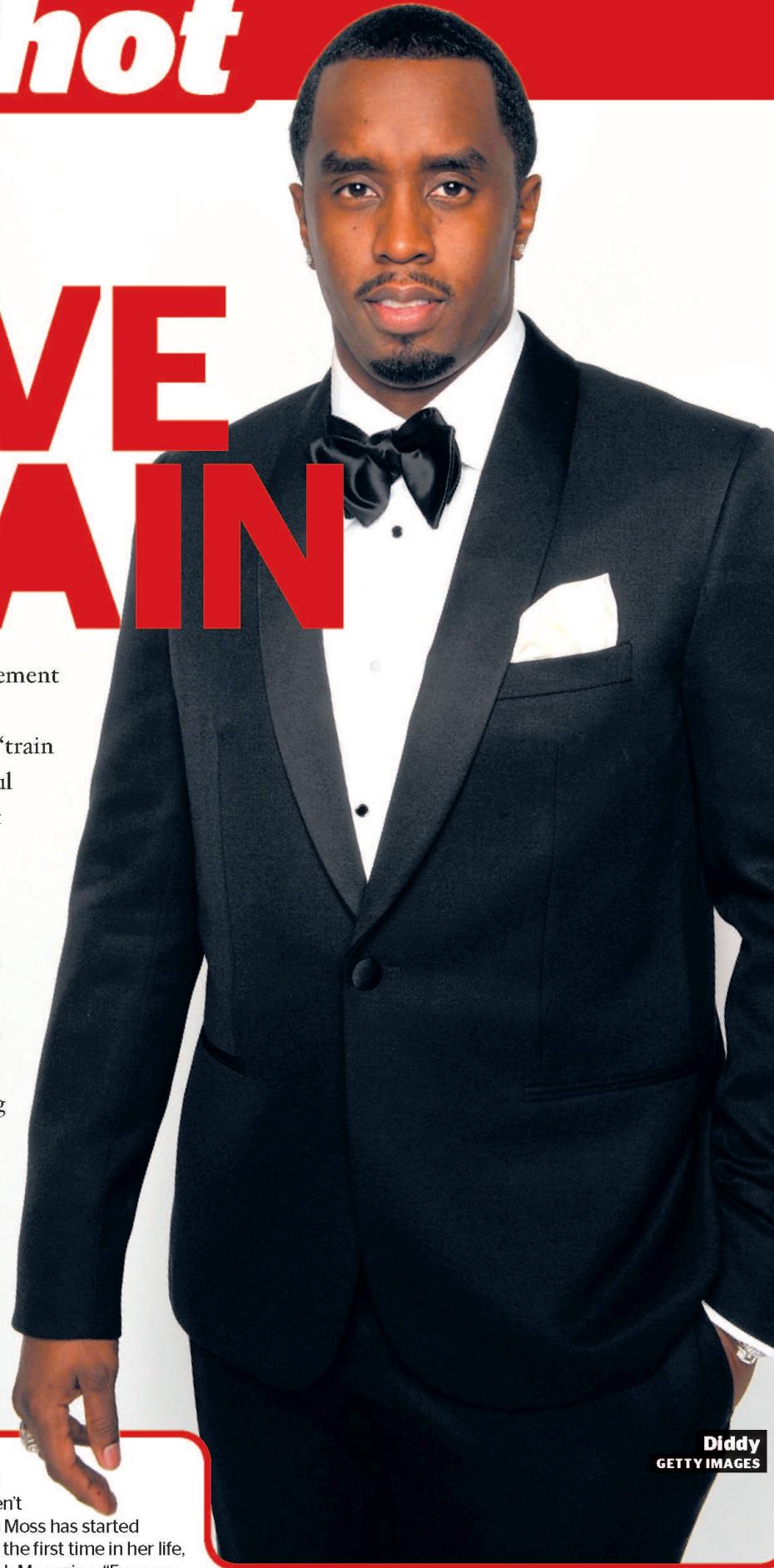
# LOVE TRAIN

Diddy is ushering in a new movement in music, people.

And that movement is called "train music," he tells MTV. The mogul describes his upcoming concept album, "Last Train to Paris," as "electro hip-hop soul funk," according to [rollingstone.com](http://rollingstone.com).

"It's a profound love story. It's me with my shades off. It's the truth," Diddy says, according to Rolling Stone. "I am going to show the world a new refreshing side of me. Get on or get off!"

OK, then. "Train" is set to drop Sept. 22 and features guest producers such as the Neptunes, Mario Winans and T-Pain.



Diddy  
GETTY IMAGES

## Bustin' out

In case you weren't wondering, Kate Moss has started wearing bras for the first time in her life, she tells New York Magazine. "Even my friends are phoning me up and saying, 'Are you pregnant?' And I'm like, 'No! I just put on a couple of pounds, and they went in the right place,'" Moss said.



Moss

## THE DIGIT

**3** Generations of Donald Trumps, now that Donald the III was born Wednesday to parents Donald Jr. and his wife Vanessa, [people.com](http://people.com) reports.

## THE VELVET ROPE



### Team Jolie

What do Danica Patrick and Brad Pitt have in common? They both prefer Angelina Jolie. Patrick says Jolie would be a good choice to play her in a movie "because she's an action star," [usmagazine.com](http://usmagazine.com) reported. And Jennifer Aniston? Not "age appropriate," Patrick, 26, said. "She's older than me!" Jolie's 33; Aniston's 40.



Heigl

### Killer casting

If Katherine Heigl is leaving "Grey's Anatomy" after this season, she's got a pretty good side gig lined up. Variety reports Heigl has teamed up with Ashton Kutcher for the movie "Five Killers," directed by Robert Luketic, who just helmed Heigl's romantic comedy "The Ugly Truth."



Mizrahi

### 'Runway' 2.0?

Move over, Heidi Klum. Isaac Mizrahi will be hosting Bravo's newest competition series, "Fashion Show," [tvguide.com](http://tvguide.com) reports. The series follows professional designers competing for the chance to have their designs sold for the mass retail market; it's set to premiere later this year. Joining Mizrahi on the judges' panel will be Kelly Rowland and fashionista Fern Mallis.



### Return of the 'Fockers'?

The third installment of the "Meet The Parents" franchise isn't quite ready yet, but its title is: "Little Fockers." Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro are in negotiations to reprise their roles, and Owen Wilson, who had small parts in the first two, could have a larger role, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

### BROMANTIC MOVIES

Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson work together often. How many movies have they been in and/or are working on together? Text "bros" and the number of your answer to 47383. You'll get a text back telling you whether you got it right.

**txtable**